MONDAY
November 10, 2025

BENGALURU
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Harh Peedtaan naal Khadi Sarkar,
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GOVT. OF PUNJAB

Under the leadership of

Chief Minister
S. Bhagwant Singh Mann

Punjab becomes the

FIRST STATE TO DISBURSE HIGHEST COMPENSATION

TO FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN RECORD TIME

Extended timely relief to flood-affected families by distributing assistance worth crores before Diwali under "Mission Chardi Kala"

DISBURSED COMPENSATION IN RECORD TIME

Compensation disbursed amongst flood-affected people in record time of 30 days for loss of houses, crops and livestock. Financial assistance for damaged houses increased to ₹40,000 per house from ₹6500

HIGHEST COMPENSATION AWARDED

Punjab ensured the highest crop compensation ever in the country, with ₹20,000 per acre being granted to affected farmers

JISDA KHET, USDI RET

For the first time in history of the country, farmers given the right to extract sand from their fields so as to enable them to be on their feet till sowing of next crop

COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF LIVESTOCK

In order to help flood-affected people rebuild their livelihoods, compensation fixed at ₹37,500 per animal for loss of milch animal, ₹32,000 per non-milch animal, ₹20,000 per calf and ₹100 per poultry bird

S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

1092/18/2025-26/4821

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

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RSS SONG ROW

Minister orders probe into incident in Kerala

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Syrian President to meet Trump

WORLD » PAGE 13

UTTARAKHAND SILVER JUBILEE

PM launches projects worth ₹8,140 crore

NEWS » PAGE 10

REMOVING BARRIERS

Dravidian model for sports

T.N. govt.'s efforts have resulted in more medals and support

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

MOVING AHEAD

Karthik enters fourth round of Chess WC

SPORT » PAGE 15

Investigation into Bilaspur accident finds passenger train crossed signal in red

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Closer look: People at the spot where the passenger train collided with a goods train near Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh. ANI

A probe into the train accident near Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh that claimed 11 lives on November 4 has found the crew had crossed the signal in red, resulting in the collision.

While a loco pilots' association blamed poor visibility as the accident took place in a curve with different lines and signals, leading to confusion under the glaring sunlight, a fact-finding report by senior railway officials drawn from various departments concluded that the accident came under the "signal passed at danger" category.

The passenger train collided with a goods train proceeding ahead on the same line. Loco pilot Vidya Sagar was killed on the spot, and the assistant loco pilot, admitted to hospital with grievous injuries, is not fit to give a statement on the circumstances that led to the accident.

Sources in the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) in South East Central Railway said mainline electric multiple unit (MEMU) passenger trains usually had only one loco pilot. However, in train no. 68733 (Gavera Road to Bilaspur), an assistant loco pilot was deployed since the loco pilot had not cleared the aptitude test.

'Crew failed to control'

The report said the crew had "failed to control the signal at danger", and the train collided with the rear brake van of the freight train.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Doctor, two held in Gujarat over a 'terror conspiracy'

Suspects had surveyed Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad; three pistols and four litres of castor oil to make deadly toxin seized from them, says ATS official; investigators suspect links with the ISKP

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Three persons arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad near Gandhinagar on Sunday over an alleged terror conspiracy. PTI

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested a Hyderabad-based doctor and two of his accomplices near Gandhinagar on Sunday over an alleged plot involving chemical weapons and connections with a global terror network.

The accused were allegedly developing ricin, an extremely lethal toxin derived from castor beans, for use in planned terror strikes, the police said.

Officials identified the main suspect as Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, who worked with Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammed Suhail Mohammad Saleem. The two assisted him with reconnaissance and arms supply. A senior ATS officer said the trio had surveyed locations in Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad as part of their operational groundwork.

Mr. Saiyed was detained near Adalaj in Gandhinagar on November 7, and two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live rounds, and four litres of castor oil were recovered from him, an official said.

Sunil Joshi, Deputy Inspector-General, ATS, said Mr. Saiyed, who was educated in China, had embraced "radical ideologies" and was actively seeking to raise funds and recruit members for terrorist operations. "He had already begun the initial process of making ricin using materials obtained for chemical synthesis," the officer said.

Investigators suspect the group's handler, Abu Khadija, operates from Afghanistan and is associated with the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP). He is believed to have coordinated weapons deliveries across the Pakistan border using drones.

The ATS learned that the three were in Gujarat to exchange weapons and finalise plans for upcoming operations, Mr. Joshi said.

During questioning, Mr. Saiyed admitted he had picked up a consignment of arms from a remote area in Kalol, Gandhinagar.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Tiger suspected to have attacked people captured

MYSURU
Forest authorities have captured a tiger believed to have been attacking people and livestock in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district over the past month, triggering panic in villages along the forest fringes. » PAGE 4

Cyber fraudster held at KIA

BENGALURU
In an early morning operation, the Uttara Kannada CEN police arrested a cyber slave-turned-cyber fraudster at the KIA in Bengaluru on Friday. The accused, identified as Shah Alam, 23, from Bihar, was nabbed using just one clue — his name. » PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 4

Assam govt. resumes eviction drive; 580 families, mostly Muslim, affected

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The government has evicted encroachers from more than 42,500 acres of land since 2021, according to the Chief Minister. FILE PHOTO

The Assam government on Sunday resumed its eviction drive in Goalpara district, affecting 580 families.

District Commissioner Prodip Timung said there was no resistance to the exercise to clear 476 acres of encroached land in the Dahikata Reserve Forest. The eviction drive will continue on Monday.

"All the 580 families who occupied the forest were issued notices more than 15 days ago to vacate the area. Most of these settlers left after getting the notices," he said.

Mr. Timung said the local authorities engaged an adequate number of security personnel and used dozens of excavators to demolish the illegal structures in the encroached area, according to the directives of the Gauhati High Court.

The affected people, mostly Bengali-speaking Muslims, said they had been living in the area for decades and had land documents. Senior Forest Department officials, however, said the area was a reserve forest and a major elephant corridor.

The drive is being carried out less than a week after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma vowed to continue clearing the encroachments and not let the "illegal Miya" live in peace during his rule.

The anti-encroachment drive in Goalpara is the latest in a series of such exercises since Mr. Sarma took charge of the BJP-led government in May 2021.

Most of those who have been evicted are Muslims. On July 21, Mr. Sarma said the government had evicted encroachers from more than 42,500 acres of land since 2021, and over 9.5 lakh acres remained to be cleared.

Campaign for Bihar election ends; polling to be held tomorrow

Amit Bhelari
KISHANGANJ

Both ruling and Opposition blocs made fervent last-minute appeals to voters

The ruling and Opposition blocs made fervent last-minute appeals to voters and highlighted key promises as campaigning for the second and final phase of the Bihar Assembly election in 122 constituencies ended on Sunday.

Polling will be held on Tuesday, and counting of votes on November 14.

Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah addressed public meetings in Sasaram and Arwal. Targeting the *Mahagatbandhan* (Grand Alliance) over "infighting", he said there was "no vacancy for the Chief Minister's post in Bihar".

"All five National Democratic Alliance [NDA] parties, like the five Pandavas, have come together to the electoral battlefield. But instead of fighting the election against us, Grand Alliance leaders are fighting against each other," the Union Minister said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Gurugram teenager shot by classmate in flat, battling for life

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

A Class 11 student was allegedly shot in the neck by his classmate in the latter's flat in Sector 48 here on Saturday night. The victim, aged around 17, is said to be in a serious condition.

The police said the teenager had fired at his classmate with the licensed revolver of his father, a property dealer. Another classmate was present at the scene. Both juveniles in conflict with law have been detained.

The injured student's mother, in a complaint to the police, said that her son had a minor altercation with the teenager two months ago and the latter bore a grudge against him.

The victim received a call from the teenager asking him to come over to meet him, but his mother told him not to go. When the teenager insisted and offered to pick him up from his home, she allowed her son to go.

The victim met the classmate near Kherki Daula toll plaza and the two had dinner together. They picked up a classmate and reached the flat in Sector 48, where the teenager's family resides on rent.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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Crisis man Axar on a mission to make up for lost time

PTI

Non-controversial, ready with a smile and one of the genuinely warm individuals going around in world cricket, the Gujarat all-rounder is immensely aware of his strengths but equally crucially, no ostrich-in-the-sand when it comes to recognising and respecting his own limitations

R. Kaushik

Shane Warne's tentacular hold over Daryll Cullinan is hardly a secret. Such was the leg-spinning genius' mastery over the South African virtuoso that in seven Tests against the Australians, Cullinan averaged a measly 12.75, falling to Warne four times.

In all, Warne dismissed Cullinan on 12 occasions in 29 matches across formats, forcing the latter to seek the help of a sports psychiatrist before South Africa's tour of Australia in 1997-98. The master of the mind, Warne didn't let Cullinan forget that he had his number, which led to one of the most hilarious counter-sledges in the history of the game.

When they came face to face in a Test the next time, Warne chirped from slip, "Now Daryll, don't you dare get out, I've been waiting four years for this opportunity to get you again."

Having had enough of Warne, understandably, a peeved Cullinan retorted, "It looks like you've spent it eating too," a direct reference to his opponent's weight. Even Warne appreciated the spontaneity of that reply, "Not bad from you, Daryll. Not bad, pretty good."

In fact, the Warne grip on Cullinan assumed such legendary proportions that Adam Parore, the New Zealand wicketkeeper, too decided to get in on the act. When Chris Harris, with his assortment of leg-breaks that bore no resemblance to the Australian magician, elicited a defensive stroke from Cullinan in a Test, Parore chimed from behind the sticks, "Bowled, Warnie." This time, Cullinan saw the funny side of things, flashing a broad smile in the direction of the maverick Kiwi stumper.

No one, of course, will parrot 'Bowled, Jaddu,' when Axar Patel is in operation. It's easy to see why they might be tempted to do so. Axar Patel is pretty much Ravindra Jadeja 2.0 in that both hail from the same state and bring the same skillsets – terrific left-handed batting, vastly underrated left-arm spin and excellent fielding abilities – to the table.

Underrated player

But Axar is a star in his own right, admittedly primarily in white-ball cricket; Jadeja, who also loves flying under the radar, will be the first to rebuff comparisons, well aware that his fellow Gujarati doesn't need to be buttonholed because he doesn't perform in anyone else's shadow.

At 31, Axar is a veteran of international cricket. Sometimes, it's not hard to overlook the fact that he first represented the country as far back as in June 2014, when he was just 20 years old. By then, Jadeja had established himself in limited-overs play though he was only a year and a half young in Test cricket and had a ways to go before forming one half of a deadly spin duo at home alongside R. Ashwin. Axar has played 168 times for India, 154 of them in 50- and 20-over cricket, but it's only in the last three years or so that he has finally been bestowed the pre-eminence that his multi-faceted skills deserve.

Ahead of the 2019 50-over World Cup in England, the phrase '3D player' gained traction after India picked Vijay Shankar, the Tamil Nadu quasi-all-rounder, in their 15-man squad ahead of Ambati Rayudu, the Hyderabad middle-order bat who had had a stellar run in the many months leading up to the summer extravaganza in England. M.S.K. Prasad, the chairman of that selection panel, has been trolled mercilessly subsequently while Shankar himself is now practically lost to international cricket. This season, the strapping 34-year-old made the first-class shift to Tripura, perhaps disillusioned with how things are unfolding in his home state.

But we digress. The '3D' – three-dimension – tag sits beautifully on Axar's broad, battle-hardened but hardly weary shoulders. He is the man for a crisis, but not for a crisis only. Having watched balefully from the sidelines for more than three years in T20Is and nearly five years in ODIs as other, more flamboyant names were preferred, he has been on a mission to make up for lost time, establishing himself as one of the first names on the team sheet at a time when Indian cricket has shown itself to be not averse to wielding the axe on a match-to-match basis.

There is much to admire about how Axar goes about his business. Non-controversial, ready with a smile and one of the genuinely warm individuals going around in world cricket, Axar is immensely aware of his strengths but equally crucially, no ostrich-in-the-sand when it comes to recognising and respecting his own limitations. The understanding of what he can do, which is a lot, and what he can't, which isn't a lot, makes him the kind of cricketer every captain would like to have in his limited-overs sides.

Test career on hold

For the time being, Axar's Test career is on hold. After a sensational debut in February 2021 when his first seven bowls in the five-day game produced five five-wicket hauls, he has slipped dramatically down the pecking order. Axar took 27 wickets in his first three Tests, against England, including 11 for 70 in the pink-ball outing in Ahmedabad, but was underwhelming subsequently; only 23 scalps in his last 20 Test innings and eight in his last 11 bowls has left him on the outer since February 2024. He still continues to feature in Test squads at home but despite the retirement last year of Ashwin, he is a distance away from making a comeback even when India play three spinners in their own backyard.

Two years back, after being named in the 50-over World Cup 15, Axar had to be replaced at the last minute by Ashwin after picking up a quadriceps strain. Next year's T20 showpiece could be his last shot at a World Cup at home, and he will be doubly determined to ensure that that isn't the only statistic of note

Jadeja is clearly the leader of the pack, Kuldeep Yadav's left-arm wrist-spin makes him a must at all times (never mind if the team management doesn't believe so) and Washington Sundar has established himself as a terrific Test match all-rounder which means that, unless one of this trio is injured or India somehow find the opportunity to play four tweakers, Axar will have to continue to bide his time. But in the two limited-overs versions, he is second to none, his versatility allowing him to flourish no matter what the game situation is and when he has been summoned to display his wares.

Onus on flexibility

In the last year or so, and particularly in T20 cricket, India have placed great onus on being flexible when it comes to the batting order, primarily. That means several of the batters have floated through the innings in various games. It can sometimes create confusion and insecurity - and it seems to have done so in some instances - but Axar appears immune to these constant shifts.

Whether he is thrust up the order to arrest a slide or to accelerate, depending on how things have unravelled, or whether he is held back so that he can tee off towards the end, Axar has hardly been found wanting, as a strike-rate of 137.87 in 50 innings will testify. Axar isn't a slogger; he is a 'proper' batter with excellent grasp of the basics, can play strokes all around the wicket even though the leg-side is his preferred choice, and can rotate the strike nicely, all of which make him an alluring package.

But while as commendable as his batting skills are, it is with the ball that he has been even more deadly.

Axar does not bamboozle batters with great drift or ripping turn or dramatic dip. He leaves that to the glamour boys. What he does is constantly attack the stumps. Target the batters' pads. Cramp them up for room. Use the size of the boundaries to his advantage. Rely on his round-armish action, when needed, to bring the ball into the right-handers. Change up angles, height of release and pace on the ball. He might appear innocuous, but that's precisely what makes him lethal. Bring him on in the PowerPlay, and he immediately lands the ball on a penny. And he is adept at stemming the flow of runs in the middle stages with his cleverness and intelligence, a wonderful combination that allows him to hold his own even on the flattest of surfaces.

Cementing his place

He is now a near-permanent fixture at No. 5 in the ODI batting line-up, his left-handedness pushing K.L. Rahul down to No. 6, and it's a position where he has produced several crucial innings, not least in the Champions Trophy in Dubai in February-March. Axar is also a crack fielder – who can forget the sensational catch at deep backward square in the T20 World Cup last year to pack off a marauding Mitchell Marsh, or his direct hit from mid-on to evict Imam-ul-Haq in the Champions Trophy in February? – who can turn matches on a slice of brilliance.

There is no disputing Axar's place in the 50-over scheme of things, but with the defence of the T20 World Cup looming, it is in the shortest international format that he will be expected to continue his tremendous all-round form. In Gold Coast the other night, Axar was named the Player-of-the-Match in a T20I for the eighth time, a terrific achievement considering that he has only played 83 games.

Among Indians, skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli (16 apiece) and Rohit Sharma (14) alone have more such individual honours, which not only reiterates Axar's relevance in the larger picture but just how he has quietly imposed himself on the format without the brouhaha and the hype that accompanies many of his more 'glamorous' contemporaries.

India have 10 matches at home, five each against South Africa and New Zealand, before they head to their title defence. Axar was the engine room at the last World Cup, though the 24 runs in the final in his final over, most of them to Heinrich Klaasen, threatened at various stages to be the decisive passage of play. Two years back, after being named in the 50-over World Cup 15, Axar had to be replaced at the last minute by Ashwin after picking up a quadriceps strain. This could be his last shot at a World Cup at home, and he will be doubly determined to ensure that that isn't the only statistic of note. Axar Patel 1.0, he is quite the package, isn't he?

THE GIST

- Axar is now a near-permanent fixture at No. 5 in the ODI batting line-up, his left-handedness pushing Rahul down to No. 6, and it's a position where he has produced several crucial innings
- He is adept at stemming the flow of runs in the middle stages with his cleverness and intelligence, a wonderful combination that allows him to hold his own even on the flattest of surfaces
- With the defence of the T20 World Cup looming, it is in the shortest international format that he will be expected to continue his tremendous all-round form

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IIIT-B's research dwells into tackling renewable energy's toughest problems

The work aims to make India's transition to solar and wind energy both reliable and practical

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Researchers at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) are using machine learning and mathematics to tackle one of renewable energy's toughest problems - how to generate enough clean power without driving up costs or risking grid instability.

By developing optimisation models that balance carbon reduction with affordability, their work aims to make India's transition to solar and wind energy both reliable and practical. Their models not only forecast solar or wind power generation, but they also balance multiple objectives at once such as accuracy, cost, and reliability, helping grid operators make fairer, more transparent decisions in real time.

The research has clear implications for grid operators, policymakers, and renewable developers. FILE PHOTO

Datasets from Germany

Aswin Kannan, assistant professor, IIIT-B, who led the research, along with his students, have worked on datasets from Germany (Netztransparenz, SMARD), the United States of America (NREL), and India, linking weather variables such as irradiance, temperature, and pressure to real power-output data.

From multiple research papers, the team found that accuracy alone is not enough.

"In energy markets, over-predicting reduces reliability, while under-predicting increases operational costs. We also found that bias in data can quietly distort results. By combining optimisation with learning, we can detect these biases and build forecasts that balance cost, reliability, and fairness for real-time grid operations," Prof. Kannan explained.

While much of his early work was in Europe, Prof. Kannan says India presents a far more dynamic challenge. "India's renewable data quality is actually very good, sometimes better than Europe, but its variability is much higher," he said, pointing out that unlike Germany's uniform weather, India's solar and wind conditions vary drastically across States and seasons.

He also noted that in India, publicly managed transmission systems are better suited to handle such vast and diverse networks compared to Europe's privatised model.

A transition of scale

Higher solar radiation doesn't automatically mean higher output here. Humidity, dust, and terrain play a much bigger role. In fact, India already generates a larger share of power from renewables than many realise, he added. According to Prof. Kannan, India's energy transition is not difficult because of policy or unpredictable supply, but because of scale. "In Europe, the transition meant retrofitting existing pipelines for hydrogen. In India, the challenge is creating new microgrids, battery systems, and transmission lines for variable renewable power," he said.

Prof. Kannan's ongoing research now focuses on solar, wind, and hydro systems, and how they can work together within a joint hydrogen-electricity network. While industry tools typically aim only for accuracy, in this framework, the models weigh trade-offs between cost, bias, and risk of error. They also switch algorithms based on data quality or changing weather, an approach that makes them more resilient to sudden shifts or uncertainty.

The research has clear implications for grid operators, policymakers, and renewable developers. Better forecasts, as per the team, can prevent costly imbalances in power markets, reduce wastage, and allow for more flexible energy pricing.

Teenagers have a 'Ferrari brain with bicycle brakes', says author and resilience coach

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Teenagers have a 'Ferrari brain with bicycle brakes', said author, scientist and resilience coach Sujata Kelkar Shetty.

Participating in a session on 'Resilient Teen Parenting in the Digital Age', at Manotsava, the mental health festival in the city, Ms. Shetty said, "Teenagers have an extraordinary capacity to learn and to feel. They can learn an extraordinary amount of information. You would have seen if you have teenagers at home.

They can have this wonderful debate with you on climate change, yet at the same time, they are also equally capable and will often forget their water bottles in school."

She said that teenagers are also impulsive because their brains have 'bicycle brakes'. "So you got a Ferrari brain with a break that does not function and steering that does not work either, then it is a combination of poor brakes and poor steering," she said.

Visitors taking part in 'Manotsava', the mental health festival, in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

No public health system

"The problem that arises is that when it comes to thinking about mental and physical health of teenagers, we don't have a public health system that gives them the kind of importance that deserves. And the onus then lies on us to support them," Ms. Shetty said. She added that it is even more important in today's age because we have situations where the environment is relentless, algorithmically-driven, and where stimulation is extraordinary.

"Post pandemic, you have a situation where your teenagers are spending too much screen time than ever before, they are more socially isolated than ever before and that leads to an upsurge in mental health issues, both anxiety and depression," she added. She also said that if teenagers are spending time on social media, they aren't just wasting their time but they are actively rewiring their brain.

Triad

She added that parents, apart from being compassionate coaches, should also focus on triad of sleep, nutrition, and movement.

"Just to give you some data, 90-minute less sleep causes a drop in IQ points in your teenager. Supplementing that diet with Omega 3 improves the amount of brain fertilizer and allows them to focus better. So you got to think about sleep, nutrition. And just 30 minutes of exercise in a day increases the Brain-derived neurotrophic factor, and the composite of these three will make a world of difference in your teen," she added.

Two students killed in accident near Harohalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two college students were killed on the spot after their motorcycle hit a road divider near Harohalli Road in Magadi taluk of Bengaluru South district on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Keshav Prasad, 21, and Mayur, 20, both residents of Bengaluru. Police said the incident occurred around 7 a.m. when the duo were heading to Hassan from Bengaluru.

Prasad, who was riding the bike, reportedly lost control of the vehicle and rammed a divider. Both died instantly. The Kudur police visited the spot, and the bodies were shifted to Nelamangala government hospital for post-mortem examination.

Two children drown in lake at Attibele

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two boys drowned in a lake at Balluru village in Attibele on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday evening. Their bodies were recovered on Sunday afternoon by the Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

The victims were identified as Aniket Kumar 8, a class 3 student and a native of Bihar, and Rehmat Baba, 11, a class 4 student from Andhra Pradesh. Both were children of daily wage labourers living in the area.

According to police, the boys had gone to play near the lake bund and were believed to have entered the waterbody without knowing how to swim. Their parents began a search when the duo did not return home. Villagers who had seen them near the lake alerted the families.

The Attibele police have registered a case.

THTalksBengaluru: Pose a question to the Police Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seemant Kumar Singh

Have a question to ask the Bengaluru Police Commissioner? Here's your chance. Seemant Kumar Singh will be live on #THTalksBengaluru on Monday from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Mr. Singh, a 1996-batch IPS officer born in Ranchi, Jharkhand in 1970, was heading the Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) before he was posted as the City Police Commissioner.

He had earlier served in the city police as Additional Commissioner of Police (East) and earlier as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic East). Starting his career as a probationer in Belagavi, he served as Superintendent of Police in Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Vijayapura, Mandya, Kolar, and Ballari districts.

He held key positions like Commissioner of Mangaluru city, commander of Anti Naxal Force, IGP (Central Range) and headed Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Karnataka State Reserve Police Force (KSRP), and BMTF. He also served in the Border Security Force (BSF) on a central deputation. Send in your questions to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in or join us live on https://youtube.com/live/jY07uieEH2g.

599 tonnes of waste cleared

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A massive cleaning drive covering approximately 95 kilometres was carried out on Friday in the North Corporation limits, resulting in the clearance of 599 tonnes of waste. Around 4,200 personnel participated in the drive.

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KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother dairy-Retrofitment work for DG-set/02045/2025-26 Date : 07-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Retrofitment Emission Control Device (RECD) to 1010 KVA DG sets – 2Nos and related works at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka	1 Job	1.44 Lakhs	6 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated:10-11-2025 To 26-11-2025 upto 11:00 AM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 26-11-2025 up to 11:00 AM
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 27-11-2025 up to 11:30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother Dairy Dual fuel kit/2044/2025-26 Date : 07-11-2025

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd CALL)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short term tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers/Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Dual Fuel kit and related works for D.G Sets at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka.	1 Job	2,04,000/-	3 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated:10-11-2025 to 18-11-2025 upto 4:00 PM.
2. Pre Bid Tender date: 14-11-2025 at 11.00AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: 18-11-2025 up to 4:00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 19-11-2025 up to 4:30 PM.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother dairy-300CFM Air Compressor/02141/2025-26 Date: 07-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of 300CFM Capacity Air Compressor with related other works at Mother dairy, Yelahanka	1 Job	2.45 Lakhs	6 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated:10-11-2025 to 26-11-2025 upto 4:00 PM.
2. Pre Bid Tender date: 20-11-2025 at 11.00AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: 26-11-2025 up to 4:00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 27-11-2025 up to 4:30 PM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/UPS Batteries to NHMPP/02129/2025-26 Date: 07-10-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites short term tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through KPP-Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed Suppliers/ Manufacturer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of contract
1	Supply, installation & commissioning of 12V, 200Ah rechargeable 700 Nos batteries for online UPS on buy back basis at NHMPP, Ramanagar.	1 Job	2.00 Lakhs	2 Months

1. Tender may be downloaded from dated: 10-11-2025 to 18-11-2025 upto 4:00 PM.
2. Pre Bid Tender date: 14-11-2025 at 11.00AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: 18-11-2025 up to 4:00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 19-11-2025 up to 4:30 PM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

COP30: beginner's guide on what to expect from the climate summit

COP30 is being called the 'Implementation COP' because it is expected to translate commitments into action. Guided by the Global Stocktake, the summit focuses on energy, industry, and transport transitions; stewardship of forests, oceans, and biodiversity; and transformation of food systems

Indu K. Murthy

(L-R) Finland President Alexander Stubb, Comoros President Assoumani Azali, Chile President Gabriel Boric, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and Governor of northern Brazilian state Para, Helder Barbalho, at the Leaders Summit ahead of the COP30 UN climate conference in Belém, Brazil on November 7. AFP

A decade has passed since the member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement – a milestone global pact that committed them to keeping the world's average surface temperature from rising well under 2°C and striving to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

However, climate finance has lagged, global emissions continue to rise, and the gap between pledges and practice has only widened since.

Against the backdrop of record-breaking heat, intensifying climate impacts, and mounting public frustration with global inaction, the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UNFCCC begins in Belém, Brazil, today.

It is both symbolic and strategic that COP30 is being hosted in Belém, which is a point of entry to the Amazon rainforest. The Amazon is one of the world's largest and most important carbon sinks (estimated at 150-200 billion tonnes) and biodiversity reserves on the planet – and it is threatened by deforestation and land conversion to non-forest use. As a result, it is tipping towards irreversible decline.

Equity and inclusion are central to climate negotiations. But paradoxically, even before the negotiations began, COP30 faced an unexpected test: inclusion. This is because Belém has limited logistical options, leaving hotel room rates to skyrocket and rendering it difficult for representatives from low-income nations and civil society organisations to participate. Such logistical exclusions have, in some ways, undercut the moral weight of the process.

'Implementation COP'

For starters, COP30 is being called the 'Implementation COP' because it is expected to be a watershed event where commitments are expected to be translated into concrete action. Guided by the Global Stocktake (GST) – which is a mandatory review that countries have to undertake every five years to assess their progress on addressing climate change, identify gaps, and draft plans – COP30 is expected to advance mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation.

Its programme will thus focus on six key areas, including energy, industry, and transport transitions; stewardship of forests, oceans, and biodiversity; transformation of food systems; resilience in cities, infrastructure, and water; and human and social development.

The Baku-to-Belém Roadmap on Climate Finance is a plan led by the COP presidency, developed by Azerbaijan and Brazil under the UNFCCC's guidance, to show how countries and institutions could scale finance for developing nations to at least $1.3 trillion a year by 2035.

It's less a binding pledge and more a menu of actions to inform negotiations after the $300-billion New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) decision at COP29. Now, as the first major stocktake after the Roadmap, participants are looking at COP30 to set a new collective goal for 2035. In addition to revisiting emission reduction and climate finance goals, it's also expected to reaffirm the fact that protecting forests and indigenous communities is central to global climate resilience.

Ultimately, COP30 will seek to mobilise all actors to accelerate climate action.

Adaptation in negotiations

Climate adaptation is imperative for the survival of millions of people in the Global South. But because adaptation is context-specific, what works in a coastal delta is unlikely to work in a mountain village. As a result, negotiations surrounding the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) have been difficult. The GGA aims to establish quantifiable goals and metrics for resilience, organise funding that matches the need, and create a system for accounting and quantifying adaptation outcomes. This long-delayed framework is expected to be established at COP30.

As discussions progress, experts around the world emphasise the need to consider local and indigenous knowledge systems in this process. Across India, for example, traditional seed varieties, water-harvesting structures, and community-based ecosystem restoration efforts offer proven models of resilience.

Finance: the missing piece

Under the Paris Agreement, economically developed countries pledged $100 billion per year to finance climate action in developing nations. At COP29, a breakthrough agreement called the NCQG on Climate Finance was reached. This target is expected to triple climate finance from $100 billion to $300 billion annually by 2035 and scale up finance from all actors, both public and private, to $1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

However, it should be noted that the $300 billion is significantly less than the estimated trillions of dollars needed by economically developing countries, with the latter arguing that the use of "all actors" to scale up finance has diluted the common but differentiated responsibilities principle, which also includes historical emissions. "All actors" means every potential source of climate finance, not just developed-country governments. It lumps together public treasuries, multilateral development banks, private investors, philanthropies, sub-national authorities, and even developing countries' own private sectors.

The Loss and Damage Fund, set up in COP28, is also grossly underfunded, receiving less than a billion dollars against an annual need running into hundreds of billions of dollars. For developing countries, this finance is an enabler of ambition, enhancing preparedness for extreme climate events, expanding climate-resilient agriculture, and accelerating the adoption of renewable energy.

COP30 is expected to finalise the reporting requirements and financing arrangements under the NCQG. One looming question at Belém is: will a credible pathway emerge for moving from the $300 billion to the $1.3 trillion target and build confidence in developing countries? And will Belém also finalise the modalities of finance: who will pay, who will gain, and how it will be accounted for?

Transition and ambition

Transitions must be fair as economies move towards net zero (i.e. that humans add no net greenhouse gases to the atmosphere over a period; emissions are reduced almost to zero, and any residual sources are balanced by removals, e.g. restoring forests and carbon capture) – and transformation can't be fuelled solely by finance. Access to reasonably priced technology and capacity building are equally important for many developing countries, be it efficient water systems, resilient crops, or clean energy, which are frequently hindered by high costs or intellectual property issues.

The stakes could not be higher at COP30. The Amazon setting underscores the urgency of protecting the world's ecosystems while tackling emissions. For India, it is a moment to shape the conversation, striking a balance between domestic imperatives and global responsibilities

Beyond promises, COP30 should lead to North-South collaborations for training, innovation, and technology sharing. Otherwise, climate transition runs the risk of becoming yet another area of inequality. In countries like India, investments in low-carbon manufacturing, renewable energy, ecosystem restoration, green skills development, small businesses, and alternative livelihoods must all be part of a "just transition."

Countries were expected to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through 2035 and submit them by February 2025. However, according to Climate Action Tracker, many countries are yet to submit their reports. The ones submitted so far account for only 19% of global emissions.

Negotiations at COP30 are expected to address the insufficient ambition of climate targets and reveal whether countries are prepared to put aside rhetoric and match science and ambition, a significant challenge in the absence of climate finance.

Climate-nature nexus

A key spotlight of Belém is the long-overdue integration of climate and biodiversity agendas. Brazil is pushing for an innovative financing model for conservation, known as the 'Tropical Forest Forever Facility'. The proposal aims to compensate more than 70 developing countries with tropical forests for their efforts to preserve them.

This growing recognition that climate and biodiversity crises are interlinked could make climate finance more effective, directing funds to ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and community-led conservation.

India at COP30

At Belém, India will be championing climate justice and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, urging developed nations to take the lead in emission cuts and financial support. In fact, at the mid-year climate talks in Bonn, India played a pivotal role in coordinating the G77+China bloc of developing countries to advocate for a fair and predictable finance goal under the NCQG framework.

This positioning reinforces India's role as both a responsible power and a representative of broader southern concerns while serving as a bridge between the Global North and South.

However, while India's domestic targets are ambitious, efforts in the institutional landscape remain a work in progress, as reflected in initiatives such as green budgeting, sovereign green bonds, and the proposed national carbon market expected by 2026.

This gap must be viewed in the context of India's developmental realities, which continue to shape its climate choices and actions.

The stakes could not be higher at COP30. The Amazon setting underscores the urgency of protecting the world's ecosystems while tackling emissions. For India, it is a moment to shape the conversation, striking a balance between domestic imperatives and global responsibilities. What unfolds in Belém will go a long way towards determining whether the international community can still bend the curve of emissions and whether emerging economies, such as India, can secure the space and support they need for economic growth that is resilient to climate change.

(Indu K. Murthy heads the Climate, Environment and Sustainability and Air Quality sectors at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank. indukmurthy@cstep.in)

A bird's eye view of Belém. AP

Warm-water corals are in an almost irreversible die-off from marine heatwaves, marking what could be the first climate tipping point. KSL

What's the latest in climate science?

Reuters

With the pace of climate change speeding up, extreme weather and other impacts are taking an increasing toll on populations and environments across the globe. Here are some of the developments this year.

Warmer, faster: Global temperatures are not just climbing, they are now climbing faster than before, with new records logged for 2023 and 2024, and at points in 2025. That finding was part of a study in June that updated baseline data used in the science reports done every few years by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The new research shows the average global temperature rising at a rate of 0.27 C each decade, almost 50% faster than in the 1990s and 2000s when the warming rate was around 0.2 C per decade.

Sea levels are rising faster, at about 4.5 mm/year over the last decade compared to 1.85 mm/year measured across the decades since 1900. The world is now on track to cross the 1.5 C warming threshold around 2030, after which scientists have warned we will likely trigger irreversible consequences. Already, the world has warmed by 1.3-1.4 C since the pre-industrial era, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Tipping points: Warm-water corals are in an almost irreversible die-off from successive marine heatwaves, marking what would be the first so-called climate tipping point, when an environmental system begins to shift into a different state. Researchers in October also warned that the Amazon rainforest could begin to "die back" and transform into a different ecosystem, such as savannah, if rapid deforestation continues as global warming crosses 1.5 C.

They also said meltwater from the thawing ice sheet atop Greenland could help cause an earlier collapse in the ocean current called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation,

Global temperatures are climbing faster than before. That finding was part of a study that updated baseline data used in the science reports done every few years by the UN Panel on Climate Change

which keeps winters mild in Europe. In Antarctica, where ice sheets are also under threat, scientists are worried about declining sea ice surrounding the southernmost continent. Similar to what is happening in the Arctic, ice loss exposes dark water that can absorb more solar radiation, which amplifies the overall warming trend. It also jeopardises the growth of phytoplankton that consume much of the world's CO_2.

Along with heatwaves and drought, wildfires still threaten to be frequent and severe. This year's State of Wildfires report, led by a group of weather agencies and universities, counted some 3.7 million sq. km as having burned between March 2024 and February 2025, an area about the size of India and Norway combined.

That was slightly less than the annual average burned for the last two decades. But the fires produced higher CO_2 emissions than before.

Deadly heat: Researchers are working on ways to assess heat-related health risks and tolls, as U.N. health and weather agencies estimate about half the world's population is already struggling. The agencies also estimate worker productivity dropping 2-3% for every degree above 20 C, while another study in *The Lancet* in October estimated global losses of more than $1 trillion from that lost productivity for last year alone.

For feedback and suggestions
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Wild jumbos clash in Belur

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Panic struck the residents of Bikkodu village in Belur taluk on Sunday morning as two wild elephants engaged in a fierce fight within a residential area.

The elephants, named Bhima and Captain by the local people, came face to face and hit each other. One of Bhima's tusks was broken and disjointed in the fight. Despite being terrified, some of the local people clicked photos and captured videos of the encounter from safe vantage points.

One of the elephants reportedly smashed a polyethylene water tank placed near a house in the area. Elephant Task Force personnel, who were tracking the movement of the elephants, were also at the spot, and tried to drive the wild animals away from the village. Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Hassan division, told *The Hindu* that fights between wild jumbos were quite common. They fight over territory, he stated. "As the fight happened in a human habitat, the local people were worried. Our staff have been tracking the elephants, both on the ground and with the help of drones. By afternoon, the elephants had moved to an acacia plantation," the officer said.

Transport Dept. seizes 102 private buses following recent Kurnool bus tragedy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The inspections followed the Kurnool tragedy, which highlighted major lapses in passenger safety standards. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Karnataka Transport Department has launched a series of early-morning enforcement operations in Bengaluru, stepping up safety checks on private buses in the wake of the recent Kurnool bus fire accident.

The special drive, which began on October 24 and went on till November 5, led to the seizure of 102 private buses, including seater, sleeper, and semi-sleeper types from different States. The department also collected ₹1 crore in penalties during this period.

According to senior officials, 13 enforcement teams were deployed across 10 key locations in the city, focusing primarily on Attibele and Devanahalli, two major entry and exit points into Bengaluru. The teams inspected buses to check for emergency exits, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, and compliance with permit and road tax regulations.

A senior official said the inspections followed the Kurnool tragedy, which highlighted major lapses in passenger safety standards. "The inspection has been carried out to ensure that all buses plying on the roads are equipped with proper fire safety measures and functional emergency exits. We will continue these checks to make sure operators strictly follow safety norms," the official added.

During the inspections, several private operators holding the All India Tourist Permits were found to be illegally running stage carriage services, in violation of their permit conditions. Many were also penalised for non-payment of State road tax, the officials confirmed.

The official further added that the ongoing checks would continue until full compliance is achieved across all operators. Following the fatal bus fire in Kurnool, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy had directed a State-wide safety audit covering both government and private buses. The audit aims to assess the mechanical fitness, emergency preparedness, and fire safety systems of the vehicles.

As part of this initiative, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has begun checking the Fire Detection and Suppression Systems and Fire Alarm and Protection Systems installed in its fleet.

The officials are ensuring that these systems are fully functional and that crew members are trained to handle fire emergencies.

The corporation has also instructed that all night-service buses must carry two fire extinguishers of five litres each, while day-service vehicles must adhere to prescribed safety standards.

White-topping projects likely to slow down as asphalting gains priority

The government's liability for white-topping in the current financial year stands at ₹4,200 crore, and for buffer roads at ₹2,400 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Finance Department order notes that the current proposal of ₹1,241 crore mirrors the objectives of white-topping, which is ensuring smoother traffic flow, justifying diversion of funds. SUDHAKARA JAIN

White-topping projects are likely to slow down in the city, as the Finance Department has approved diverting funds earmarked for the projects towards immediate asphalting.

Last week, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the release of ₹1,241.57 crore for road infrastructure development across all corporations. The proposal, moved through the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), stated, "There has been extensive backlash from citizens over the poor condition of arterial and sub-arterial roads. Immediate infrastructure development can ease congestion and ensure smoother commutes."

However, the Finance Department approved the current proposal on the condition that allocations for either white-topping or buffer roads, both under Special Infrastructure Projects, would be reduced.

The Finance Department said in the order that the government's liability for white-topping in the current financial year stands at ₹4,200 crore, and for buffer roads at ₹2,400 crore. Beyond 2025-26, the department had agreed to allocate ₹3,000 crore annually.

The B-SMILE is executing ongoing white-topping works spanning 150 km, estimated at ₹1,700 crore

The Finance Department order notes that the current proposal of ₹1,241 crore mirrors the objectives of white-topping, which is ensuring smoother traffic flow, justifying diversion of funds. However, both asphalting and white-topping have historically failed to deliver lasting solutions, though the latter is said to have performed slightly better.

Challenges

The B-SMILE, a special purpose vehicle, is executing ongoing white-topping works spanning 150 km, estimated at ₹1,700 crore. This includes a 1.9-km stretch of J.C. Road in the city's core, which has caused major traffic disruptions. The commuters in central Bengaluru will soon face similar issues on Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, as three more white-topping packages around J.C. Road are set to begin. The traffic police had earlier denied permission to white-top all stretches simultaneously, along with J.C. Road, to avoid severe congestion.

Prolonged delays are already causing traffic issues as witnessed in the case of Panathur Road, BEL Road, and several more stretches in the eastern part of the city.

KSRTC's initiative for visually challenged passengers wins national award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been honoured with the National Award of Excellence in Urban Transport - 2025 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Dhwani Spandana project, a first-of-its-kind initiative for visually challenged passengers, received the honour for its work in creating an inclusive and accessible public transport system. The award was presented to KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha by Union Minister for Energy, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar at a ceremony held in Gurugram, Haryana, on Sunday, the release stated.

Assistive audio signals

"Developed by the Raised Lines Foundation at IIT Delhi, with GIZ as the knowledge partner, the Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System has been implemented in 200 Mysuru city buses. The technology uses assistive audio signals to help visually challenged commuters identify approaching buses and locate entry points safely," a KSRTC official said.

Bengaluru tops

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Curtains came down on the 4th Mini Karnataka Games 2025 with Bengaluru emerging as the undisputed champion, clinching a total of 404 medals including 135 gold, 128 silver and 141 bronze.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, NOV. 10		
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RISE	22:48	SET 11:08
TUESDAY, NOV. 11		
RISE	06:16	SET 17:51
RISE	23:46	SET 12:00
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12		
RISE	06:17	SET 17:51
RISE	00:00	SET 12:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	31	17
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Children engaged in child labour in Pakistan's Sindh

1.6 million. Child labour remains a major menace in the country despite efforts by the government to update and institute laws to protect children aged between 5 and 17, said Sindh Director General of Labour. A survey revealed that over 1.6 million were engaged in child labour. PTI

Persons affected by Ukraine's strikes on Russia's energy infra

20 In thousand. Ukrainian strikes on energy infrastructure have left more than 20,000 people without power in several Russian border regions, local authorities said. Belgorod Governor said the "electricity and heating supply network has suffered severe damage" . AFP

Ragi procured by the T.N. government in the last three years

6,453 In metric tonnes. The Tamil Nadu government has procured 6,453 metric tonnes of ragi from farmers, and disbursed ₹26.48 crore to the farming community since 2022-23, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies R. Sakkarapani said. PTI

Worth of projects inaugurated by the PM in Uttarakhand

8,260 In ₹ crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth ₹8,260 crore in Uttarakhand to mark 25 years of the State's formation, and lauded the progress made by it in different sectors. PTI

Presidential candidates approved by Guinea's court

9 Guinea's supreme court has released a provisional list of presidential candidates for the December election in the West African nation. The court approved a provisional list of nine candidates, including junta leader Mamadi Doumbouya. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Does India need nutritional transformation?

What are functional foods and smart proteins? Why is it necessary to ensure nutritional security? Which country was the first to approve the commercial sale of cultivated chicken? How is the smart protein ecosystem faring? How can public scepticisms about 'lab-food' be tackled?

EXPLAINER

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:
Society's relationship with food and nutrition is constantly evolving. The next transformation involves functional foods and smart proteins.

What are functional foods?
Functional foods are enriched foods that promote health or prevent disease, such as vitamin-enriched rice or omega-3-fortified milk. Functional foods leverage several technologies such as nutrigenomics (the study of how nutrition interacts with genes), bio-fortification, 3D food printing, and bioprocessing.

Smart proteins refer to proteins sourced using biotechnology that aim to reduce reliance on conventional production. These include plant-based proteins (restructured extracts from legumes, cereals, or oilseeds to mimic animal meat and dairy); fermentation-derived proteins (produced by microbial systems); and cultivated meat (animal cells grown in bioreactors without slaughter).

Why does India need them?
India's nutritional landscape remains highly uneven. More than one-third of Indian children are stunted, and although adult protein intake has improved, an urban-rural divide remains. As the economy grows and household incomes increase, societal expectations from food will change from being simply filling to being genuinely nourishing. This shift demands a reorientation of India's policy from ensuring food security to nutritional security, providing food rich in proteins, antioxidants, and vitamins to meet health and developmental goals.

The challenge lies in achieving this nutritional transformation while balancing sustainability. India must scale food production systems without worsening environmental degradation or deepening climate change impacts.

GETTY IMAGES

Where does India stand today?
Functional foods and smart proteins are a thematic area recognised under India's Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment (BioE3) policy. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its public-sector partner Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) have initiated funding programmes in these areas.

On the functional food front, scientists are developing bio-fortified crops such as zinc-enriched rice (developed at IIRR, Hyderabad) and iron-rich pearl millet (from ICRISAT). Several private players – Tata Consumer Products, ITC, and Marico – are investing in fortified staples and health-focused food lines. The smart protein ecosystem is also growing. In 2023, there were an estimated 377 products (meat, eggs, or dairy) sold by over 70 smart protein brands across India. Startups such as GoodDot, Blue Tribe Foods, and Evo Foods are pioneering plant-based meat and egg alternatives. The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology has received a substantial ₹4.5 crore grant from the DBT for research on cultivated meat.

While both segments are developing in India, there are several gaps, most notably in regulatory clarity. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is yet to issue definitive guidance on novel foods such as cultivated meat or precision-fermented proteins.

How are other countries faring?
In the 1980s, Japan was the first country to put forth the concept of functional foods and devise a framework for its regulation. Smart proteins on the other hand, are a more novel category of food. Singapore became the first country to approve the commercial sale of cultivated chicken in 2020. China has prioritised alternative proteins as part of its food-security and innovation agenda. The European Union is investing heavily in sustainable protein production through its "Farm to Fork" strategy.

What should be the way forward?
On the health front, functional foods and smart proteins will be vital contributors to India's nutritional security. On the economic front, the global plant-based foods market is estimated to be anywhere between $85 billion (as per UBS) and $240 billion (as per Credit Suisse) by 2030. India, with its strong agricultural base and expanding biotech industry, could play a major supplier. If that happens, these industries could generate thousands of agriculture, manufacturing, and logistics jobs within India. However, India risks either lagging in innovation or facing a flood of unverified, mislabelled products. The transition to biomanufacturing will demand major workforce upskilling to enable employment of agricultural workforce, and poor implementation could concentrate market power among a few large corporations. Public perception poses another challenge, and scepticism of "lab-made" food can only be overcome through transparent communication and public trust.

Therefore, a national regulatory framework for novel foods under FSSAI should provide clarity on definitions, safety evaluation, and labelling for functional and alternative protein products. Inter-ministerial coordination is also needed to ensure coherent policy support. Public-private partnerships can help scale biomanufacturing infrastructure and indigenise critical technologies such as precision fermentation. And finally, public education and inclusion of farmers in new value chains will be essential to ensure that biotechnology's benefits extend across society.

Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy, and CEO at CloudKrate.

THE GIST

- Functional foods are enriched foods that promote health or prevent disease, such as vitamin-enriched rice or omega-3-fortified milk.
- In 2023, there were an estimated 377 products (meat, eggs, or dairy) sold by over 70 smart protein brands across India.
- On the health front, functional foods and smart proteins will be vital contributors to India's nutritional security.

How should law schools change attendance norms?

What did the Delhi High Court's judgment in the Sushant Rohilla case stipulate?

G. S. Bajpai

The story so far:
The Delhi High Court's judgment in *In Re: Suicide Committed by Sushant Rohilla*, 2025 examines how universities should exercise disciplinary authority within the constitutional framework of fairness and reason. The case arose from the 2016 suicide of a law student barred from writing exams due to attendance shortage. The Court converted the incident into a public-interest inquiry on whether attendance policies align with fairness and proportionality. Delivered amid growing concern for student welfare, the judgment underscores that academic autonomy must operate within constitutional discipline.

What was the core issue before HC?
The Court clarified that the case was not concerned with attendance per se but its enforcement. Many universities debarred students once attendance fell below the limit, without warning, counselling or discussion. Such mechanical application violated procedural fairness and constitutional standards.

The judgment draws from Article 14's doctrine of non-arbitrariness and procedural fairness. Universities exercising disciplinary powers are public authorities subject to constitutional accountability; their decisions must be reasoned, proportionate and just. Fairness here is not merely procedural but a constitutional value linked to Article 21's protection of dignity and mental well-being. It safeguards due process and students' welfare as part of the constitutional promise of life with dignity.

Did HC invalidate attendance rules?
The Court upheld attendance norms but objected to rigid enforcement. It affirmed the Bar Council of India's (BCI) authority under Rule 12 of the Legal Education Rules 2008 to require 70% attendance, relaxable to 65% in exceptional cases, but called the framework "extremely strict" and urged reconsideration in light of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and UGC Regulations, 2003, both stressing flexibility and learner-centred education. Attendance, when enforced mechanically, can become an exclusionary barrier. The rule remained valid, but its uncompromising application was held disproportionate. The Court viewed debarment as an extreme step with grave academic consequences.

What must universities now follow?
Post-judgment, certain procedural steps must be observed before any denial of examination on attendance grounds such as weekly attendance updates through portals or notice boards and monthly shortage notices to students and guardians for early intervention; counselling, and opportunities to address shortfalls through extra classes, home assignments or recognised academic activities such as legal-aid work; recording medical or mental-health issues or hardship; and notice and opportunity for representation. Fairness requires prior notice and a real chance to respond before any final decision. If, despite these remedial efforts, a student still fails to meet the required attendance, they may be debarred.

What are the implications?
The implications are institutional, cultural and pedagogical. Universities must foster supportive environments, integrate counselling and establish Grievance Redressal Committees with student representation. Debarment can no longer be informal or automatic, they must be reasoned and open to representation. Experiential learning through moots, internships, research or legal-aid work must count toward engagement. Attendance should encourage participation, not policing. Moreover, the BCI must revisit Rule 12 in light of NEP 2020. No law school may impose stricter norms than those prescribed.

The *Sushant Rohilla* judgment marks a milestone in aligning higher-education governance with constitutional values.

The author is Vice Chancellor, National Law University. Inputs from Vibhuti Sharma. Views are personal.

THE GIST

- The Court clarified that the case was not concerned with attendance per se but its enforcement.
- Universities exercising disciplinary powers are public authorities subject to constitutional accountability; their decisions must be reasoned, proportionate and just.
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Tiger suspected of attacking people captured

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The tiger which was captured by forest authorities in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Forest authorities have captured a tiger believed to have been attacking people and livestock in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district over the past month, triggering panic in villages along the forest fringes.

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre confirmed that the tiger, suspected to be responsible for the deaths of three persons in separate incidents in Hediyala, Moleyur, and Nugu forest belts, had been captured. The Forest Department had launched an intensive search following a spate of human-wildlife conflict cases in the region. However, the Minister directed officials to conduct a DNA test to verify whether the captured tiger was indeed the one behind the recent attacks. "The post-mortem reports of the victims and the DNA profile of the tiger must be cross-verified to confirm its involvement," Mr. Khandre said.

The tiger that had been moving around with a snare wound around its neck was successfully tranquillised on Saturday night, bringing relief to villagers in Sargur and nearby forest fringe areas.

Forest personnel said the tiger had an infected wound, which perhaps led to its weakened condition and attacks on livestock and humans.

After being tranquillised, the big cat was shifted to the Chamundi Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Mysuru for treatment.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Prabhakaran said that combing operations would continue in the region despite the capture. "Though this tiger is suspected to be involved in the two recent attacks, we will wait for scientific confirmation," he said. DNA profiling would be carried out using samples collected from the victims and the tiger to establish its involvement.

He added that the captured tiger was old and weak. "Its condition and the pattern of attacks suggest its involvement. The animal was found and captured about 4 km from the spot where the latest attack took place on Friday," the official informed.

According to officials, the captured tiger was estimated to be aged around 12 to 13. Its teeth are severely worn down, which may also have made it difficult for the animal to hunt wild prey and forced it to stray into human habitations and attack people and cattle for easier food sources.

City's Shivaji wins cross country 10 km race

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Bengaluru's Shivaji Madappagowdar and Hubballi's Shaheen S.D. emerged winners in the men's and women's categories, respectively, at the State-level cross country 10 km race organised on Sunday by the District Olympics Association and Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation.

Cyber slave-turned-fraudster held at KIA

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

In an early morning operation, the Uttara Kannada CEN police arrested a cyber slave-turned-cyber fraudster at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Friday.

The accused, identified as Shah Alam, 23, from Bihar, was nabbed using just one clue – his name. The police team scanned Bengaluru-bound flights from across the country, took a calculated guess, and detained Alam, who arrived on a flight from Delhi. Their hunch proved right.

Potential bride
The victim, a 38-year-old businessman from Uttara Kannada, believed that Alam was a potential bride he met on a matrimonial website and hence continued chatting. Between June 21 and July 23, the accused convinced the victim to gift him a new iPhone, a MacBook, and ₹36 lakh for trading. However, the scam began on May 25 – when Alam was still in Cambodia where he was held captive as a cybercrime slave.

Cyber slavery
Alam met an agent who sent him to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on April 29 to work with a Chinese cyber fraud team. During his stint there, Alam set up a trap for the Uttara Kannada businessman on the website and passed his contact to a woman in the team, who built the victim's trust after chatting for many days. "The woman chatted with the victim, persuaded him to invest in a trading platform, and initially showed a profit of ₹6 lakh, all under Alam's supervision," said B. Ashwini, Deputy Superintendent of Police, who investigated the case.

Multiple victims
Alam helped the team carry out several such frauds, extorting lakhs from multiple victims. But when he was denied a fair share, conflicts arose.

A police officer told *The Hindu* that the cyber team allowed the "slaves" to take brief breaks when they brought in big profits. During one such outing, Alam escaped, approached the Indian Embassy in Cambodia, and narrated his ordeal. The embassy arranged his immediate return to India.

Extortion in India
After returning, Alam contacted the Uttara Kannada businessman again using a new number, posing as the same woman and claiming she had changed her phone.

Over time, he demanded more "gifts". On one occasion, he flew to Hyderabad and collected them, pretending to be the woman's brother.

By August, the businessman grew suspicious after seeing no returns for three months. The investigation team, led by Ms. Ashwini, kept the conversation going and set up a trap. In early November, the businessman offered another gift and asked Alam to come to Bengaluru. The only clue was the name Alam, mentioned by the accused when he collected gifts from the businessman in Hyderabad.

Though Alam claimed that he was coming from Hyderabad, no flight was booked under that name for November 7. After checking hundreds of flights, police found one 'Alam' arriving from Delhi. He was detained at KIA, where he confessed to the crime.

Deepan M.N., Superintendent of Police, Uttara Kannada, confirmed to *The Hindu* that Alam has been remanded to judicial custody. Police will seek his custody again for further investigation.

THE HINDU GROUP
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SPORTSTAR
When the odds stacked up, they stood taller.
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The unspoken in the classroom

If we teach children to understand that power comes with privilege and duty, we will give them something no exam can measure: the wisdom to hold power with empathy

Ponmythili Muralidharan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Every corridor in a college or school echoes with one familiar question: "What marks did you get?" One that begins in school, morphs into CGPA in college, and later turns into performance ratings at work.

Unseen exams
Grades matter; they show discipline and effort. But do they truly prepare our students for life beyond exams? Life's toughest tests never come on paper. They arrive as people, choices, and consequences; the unseen exams that shape who we become. Yet, these are the lessons our classrooms often leave unspoken. We teach students how to solve problems, but not how to face people. We prepare them for questions with one right answer, not for those with many uncertain ones.

As a teacher, I ask myself what I truly want my students to learn. I want them to understand something we rarely speak about: power and politics.

The problem is not that power exists, but that neither students nor adults are taught to understand it. Then, power gets misused or people begin to feel powerless under those who misuse it. Both hurt deeply.

Power isn't abstract. It rests on dependence and resources; on who needs whom, and for what. The more we hold of what others value – knowledge, skill, access, reliability, kindness – the more powerful we appear. Awareness begins when we see this clearly: when we know the power we hold and the power we give away. Without that awareness, even bright minds shrink. When people start believing their voice doesn't matter, they slowly stop using it.

Marks and CGPAs are also power; of expertise. But when everyone brings grades to the table, all stand equal. What sets one apart is what else they bring; reliability, creativity, empathy and courage. These qualities are the roots of true influence and make others depend on us.

When students start asking, "What do I bring that others value?", their learning deepens. They stop chasing grades for approval; they begin to see how their talents, ideas, effort and integrity create value for others. That is the beginning of real power that builds, not breaks.

Responsible power
Awareness alone is not enough. Once we recognise the power we hold, the next question is: What will we do with it? Do we use it only for ourselves, or to lift others too? True leadership begins when power walks hand in hand with concern for others: for people, community, and the collective good. In every space – from classrooms to workplaces – power is always at play. Ignoring it leaves the field to those who may not act with conscience. We don't need to shun power; we need to shape it with integrity: to know how to win without wounding, and to stay humble in victory.

Across fields, a few examples remind us what responsible power looks like. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam used science to help India move from borrowing technology to building it. His power lay not in his position but in his purpose of turning knowledge into self-belief and make others powerful.

Jemimah Rodrigues, one of India's brightest cricket talents, showed the world what it means to know your power and stand tall. During the recent World Cup, she faced harsh trolling for a few failures. Yet she stayed calm and joyful, focusing on the game instead of the noise. She knew her worth. She never doubted her power. Because of that confidence, people now turn to her; they depend on her strength and spirit. That is real power. It is not loud or defensive. It quietly draws people in.

Power with grace
Earlier this year, at a chess tournament, Hikaru Nakamura defeated D. Gukesh and tossed the latter's king into the crowd. It was a loud display of arrogance. Though shocked, Gukesh stayed calm, reset the pieces and walked away with quiet dignity. Weeks later, when Gukesh won against the same opponent, he re-arranged the pieces and ended the game. No celebration. No reaction. Just grace. He knew his strength and didn't need to prove it. That is the maturity we must teach our students. Power without responsibility can humiliate. Power with self-awareness and grace commands respect.

As Children's Day approaches, perhaps it is time to reflect not only on schooling but on education as a whole and how it shapes young adults into thoughtful, responsible human beings.

Power comes with privilege, but also with duty. If we teach children to understand that, we give them something no exam can measure: the strength to stay kind, confident, and fair, even when they hold power.

Exams will pass. Certificates will fade. But the wisdom to hold power with empathy will define who our students become.

The writer is Junior Faculty-Organisation Behaviour and Human Resource at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Rolls-Royce Wings4Her Scholarship For Women Engineering Students
An initiative from Rolls-Royce India
Eligibility: Female students across India in any of year of engineering programmes in AICTE-recognised institutions, preferably government colleges, who have scored over 60% in Class 10 and Class 12 board exams and an annual family income not exceeding ₹400,000 per annum.
Rewards: ₹35,000, mentorship and workshops from experts at Rolls Royce India
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/UNSC4

Nehru Fellowship for Youth
Offered by the Inclusive Minds
Eligibility: Indian citizens who have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline and are involved in youth, student, or social movements strong command show a strong commitment to social justice and constitutional values and believe that politics should serve the people and not the powerful.
Rewards: Up to ₹50,000 per month.
Application: Online
Deadline: December 31
www.b4s.in/edge/NFLY1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

CACHE

REUTERS

How have tech brands changed their ad strategy on social media?

Tech companies that have operations ranging across international markets face a unique challenge as they need to market their digital product to people from a variety of cultures. This is where a dedicated social media presence with a customised approach becomes indispensable

Sahana Venugopal

In mid-October, writer Savannah Monroe shared a photo of her engagement ring on X (formerly Twitter). But instead of congratulatory messages, Ms. Monroe was hit with numerous comments from internet strangers who mocked the size of her gemstone. That's because Amazon Prime Video India's X account retweeted her photo with a screengrab from the show *The Summer I Turned Pretty,* in which a character proposes with a comically tiny ring.

The tweet went viral with many other X users taking the joke forward, while others defended Ms. Monroe. The writer described Amazon's retweet as "inviting harassment in droves." The company later expressed regret and removed the tweet.

This incident is just one example of how tech brands have transformed their advertising strategy on social media – and how easily things can go wrong. As more brands join X, Facebook, and Instagram, they start posting like a human user to make themselves more engaging, instead of posting dry, administrative updates about their products and services.

For example, Uber's official account posted a photo of Norwegian artist Edvard Munch's painting 'The Scream' for Halloween and added a text overlay on Instagram: "Me when my friend hasn't heard of Uber One yet." The company also urged users to "ghost" their extra fees, referencing a slang word used while dating.

Are brands taking on a human personality?

This is called brand anthropomorphism – the act of giving human characteristics to a corporate brand. This character lets brands crave junk food, gush over celebrities, celebrate sports wins, cheekily promote their products, appear to express emotions, make fun of their own customers, and even nudge them into taking certain actions.

However, tech companies that have operations ranging across international markets face a unique challenge as they need to market their digital product to people from a variety of cultures and economic backgrounds. This is where a dedicated social media presence with a customised approach for each significant userbase becomes indispensable. Projecting a sense of playfulness is also key as many such brands adopt what they imagine to be the language of viewers in their 20s and 30s, loaded with Gen Z slang and pop culture references.

For example: Netflix, on X, maintains a mainstream Netflix account that promoted the final season of *Stranger Things*; a Netflix India account that showcased its Hindi language content while claiming to be "simping" for Emraan Hashmi; and a Netflix India South account that referred to Silambarasan T.R. as its "boyfriend".

Amazon too has several India-centric channels on both X and Instagram where it promotes its own offerings, with a mix of corporate and human-like captions.

Why are brands doing this?

The single most important reason is for global brands to connect with their users in a personal way. Spotify, for instance, on October 20, announced on X that lossless audio had come to Premium users. The company also asked users what was the first song they were listening to with lossless audio, in order to drive up engagement. However, Spotify was slammed by users who complained that lossless audio had only come to select countries. In addition to farming engagement, brands are also looking to be relatable, especially to younger customers who spend more time on their devices.

Microsoft, which maintains a plethora of social media accounts for its offerings, posted on X on October 31: "when your pc fan gets loud for no reason...okay overachiever". The account playfully agreed with others who joked about their computer's fans, but ignored those who blamed Microsoft products and software for their own loud PC fans.

Google's Gemini account on Instagram posted an AI-generated video of different birth months visualised as scary jack-in-the-box animations in the run-up to Halloween. The 'birth-month-as-bespoke-content' format is popular on Instagram and keeps users watching videos for longer until they see the result for their own birth month. Google used this trend to boost its Veo AI video generator, shared the prompts that users could borrow, and even replied to a user in order to reference a famous horror movie franchise.

Several companies use social media to iron down the line separating organic content from advertisements. Instagram now shows sponsored posts, Stories, accounts, and even suggested content – all unsolicited – to its users, making it harder for them to quickly differentiate between posts from friends and posts from companies.

On the flip side, brands use social media to further widen the gap between their charming online reputation and their serious offline lapses. For example, OpenAI is now facing a lawsuit over the death of 16-year-old Adam Raine, whose parents claimed that ChatGPT helped their struggling son explore suicide methods. However, the company on Instagram posted a light-hearted Story where it showed ChatGPT's saucy response to a person's ex-partner.

Why should a shift in digital ad strategies matter?

A well-implemented social media strategy can help a brand better connect with users, convert them into customers, maintain a positive relationship with its userbase, and make advertisements easier to inject into their viewers' online worlds and more natural for them to re-share. These branding strategies encourage users to reach out to official social media channels for instant help or answers, instead of calling a customer service line and expecting a human employee to document and resolve an issue.

However, a more unorthodox social media strategy can also backfire at times. One case is Meta's WhatsApp, which tried to tease users who frequently add the phrase 'lol' to the end of their texts. WhatsApp's post on X instead garnered millions of views as many users questioned whether WhatsApp was spying on their messages.

This brought back memories of the company's negative encounters with international law over its privacy violations.

In the end, Meta repeatedly told users that WhatsApp messages had end-to-end encryption and that its use of the trending phrase "we see you," was meant in jest.

Naturally, some brands choose to go the other way, lessening their chances of courting controversy.

Apple, for example, largely maintains a restrained and mature tone across its social media channels, opting for short photo captions or text that focuses on the post's formal context, rather than playing around.

Another example is Palantir, which mostly posts about its employees on X and the company's own accomplishments. The company's official X account maintains a diplomatic tone that aligns with Palantir's high-level operations related to U.S. defence and tech dominance; it does not need to pander to everyday users or binge watchers.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup won by Harmanpreet Kaur's team

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In the 13 editions held so far, Australia has reigned supreme seven times followed by England with four titles. So, which is the only other team apart from India to lift the cup?

QUESTION 2
The overall prize money was a record $13.88 million, an increase of 297% from the last edition held in 2022. How much did the Indian women team receive for their winning effort?

QUESTION 3
Apart from Jemimah Rodrigues' match-winning century in the semifinals, which two Indian batters scored tons in the tournament?

QUESTION 4
Name the three Indians who made it to the ICC's team of the tournament.

QUESTION 5
India's remarkable win in the semifinal was the highest chase in the history of Women's ODIs, eclipsing a mark set by Australia a few days earlier. Who was the losing team in that match?

QUESTION 6
What first in the history of ICC tournament summit clashes did the player of the tournament Deepti Sharma achieve against South Africa?

Visual question:
She was one of the Indians to win a player-of-the-match award in the tournament. Identify this speedster. AFP

Questions and Answers to the November 7 edition of the daily quiz:
1. Mr. Mamdani quoted this democratic socialist in his victory speech. **Ans: Jawaharlal Nehru**
2. Mr. Mamdani's biggest political backer in the mayoral elections was himself first elected mayor of Burlington in Vermont. **Ans: Bernie Sanders**
3. This Canadian leader was the socialist who was responsible for the institution of the single payer, universal healthcare system in the country. **Ans: Tommy Douglas**
4. This person was responsible for the National Health Service. **Ans: Clement Attlee**
5. This revolutionary was a co-founder of the Spartacus League in Germany. **Ans: Rosa Luxemburg**
Visual question: Identify this Indian democratic socialist. **Ans: Madhu Dandavate**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Joe V.R.| Manvi Yadav

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I went cold turkey to end my addiction

His cavalier attitude to the company's mounting debt is concerning

S. Upendran

How is the word 'cavalier' pronounced? (K. Sharanya)
The word consists of three syllables. The 'a' in the first sounds like the 'a' in 'ant', 'pant' and 'chant', while the vowel in the second, is like the 'a' in 'china'. The final syllable rhymes with 'hear', 'dear' and 'gear'; the word is pronounced 'ka-ve-LEAR' with the stress on the third syllable. It comes from the Latin 'caballus' meaning 'horse'; in the past, it was used to refer to a knight or soldier sitting on his horse. Nowadays, when used, the word has a very negative meaning. When someone says that your attitude towards others and their problems is rather cavalier, what they mean is that you are rather dismissive of everything; you do not take the people or their problems seriously. You look down on others; and as a result, come across as being condescending and indifferent.

The Minister has a cavalier disregard for the rights of others.

Why is the object called a 'manhole'? (D. Geetha, Chennai)
We all know what a manhole is; the term was first used in the late 18th century to refer to the cover, generally round in shape, which a worker had to go through to access the underground drainage and sewage systems. In order to make it a gender-neutral term, native speakers of English have started referring to it as 'utility hole', 'service hole' and 'access hole'. It is important to remember, however, when the word 'man' was first used, it meant 'human being' and it included both sexes – male and female, both among adults and children. In the past, the word 'werman' was used to denote a male, while 'wifman' was used to refer to a female. Both words included the word 'man'.

What is the meaning and origin of 'go cold turkey' (Aswath, Bengaluru)
This American expression was initially used in the context of drug addiction. When an addict decides to 'go cold turkey', what he does is to stop using drugs completely; instead of gradually reducing the quantity of intake, he attempts to overcome his addiction problem by quitting abruptly. This drastic step taken to end his substance abuse problem is done without seeking the assistance of anyone.

Given the number of years you've been an addict, don't quit cold turkey. Seek the help of a doctor.

When a drug addict attempts to overcome his problem by going cold turkey, he experiences withdrawal symptoms. He perspires, has goosebumps, looks pale, etc. – in other words, he looks like a turkey that has been plucked and left out in the open for some time.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Acquiescence:
acceptance without protest; agreement with a statement or proposal to do something

Synonym: assent

Usage: *There was a murmur of acquiescence from the assembly.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/acquiescencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌæk.wi:ˈɛs.əns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

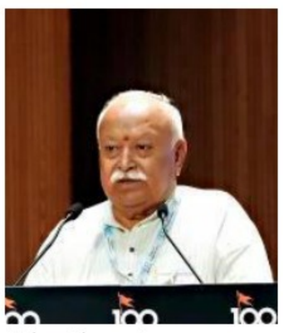
Registration not mandatory, we are recognised as a body of individuals: RSS chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat clarified and said that RSS does not require registration, as it is 'recognised as a body of individuals'.

Mr. Bhagwat was responding to repeated questions raised about the RSS not being registered, as discussed during an interaction in Bengaluru on Sunday.

"The RSS was established in 1925. Should we have registered with the British? After independence, the government did not make registration mandatory. But we are recognised. The Indian government has banned us thrice. What did they ban if we are not recognised? The courts have called us as a body of individuals. The Income Tax Department has exempted us from income tax," he said.


Mohan Bhagwat.

Soon after, Priyank Kharge, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister, Karnataka, who has been questioning the RSS as to why it is not registered, shot back on social media, saying that the RSS not being registered underscore a fundamental issue of transparency and accountability. "When every religious or charitable institution in India is required to maintain financial transparency, what justifies the absence of similar accountability mechanisms for the RSS?," he asked.

Forget caste

At the interaction, when asked about the issues with the caste system, Mr. Bhagwat said there was no caste system, but only caste confusion for concessions and for elections. "We need to forget caste, which can be done even at an individual level," he said. However, he said reservations must continue till full equality is achieved.

When asked whether Muslims and Christians are allowed to join the RSS, he said they were welcome but with one condition: that they should identify themselves as the children of Bharat Mata, as part of the larger Hindu society, and keep their separateness out. "Like many from what is regarded as Hindu society, Muslims and Christians also come to a shaka, but we don't take a count of them. Neither do we ask the caste of any of our members. We are all Hindus," he said.

Denying that the RSS was a political organisation, Mr. Bhagwat said that RSS never indulged in politics. "We support right policies. We do not have affinity towards any party. We support the party that implements the policies we think are right for the country," he claimed.

Home Minister hints at forming panel on security measures in prison

Not only a terrorist, but no one should have a mobile phone inside the prison, he says; prison officials conducted surprise checks in multiple barracks on Sunday but found no items

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Sunday that a meeting would be convened to review the lapses in the security measures of the Central Jail at Parappana Agrahara here. He said that he was waiting for the preliminary report on the issue and that the State government could set up a panel to recommend measures on corrective action to be taken.

G. Parameshwara

His comments came after videos showed prisoner Umesh Reddy, a notorious serial rapist, had access to television and mobile phone, while Tarun Raju, an accused in gold smuggling case, and an ISIS operative, also had access to mobile phones inside the prison.

Speaking to presspersons in Davangere, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the government would take strict action against officials who have erred and ensure this doesn't recur. "The Home Minister will hold a review meeting on Monday," he said.

"In Bengaluru, this has repeatedly happened. We had acted then. I have spoken to ADGP B. Dayanand in this regard for a report," Dr. Parameshwara said.

"I will not tolerate this nonsense. This should not happen. Though there could be a shortage of personnel, those who are working should work well. This does not mean prisoners can be allowed to use of mobile or television," Dr. Parameshwara said.

"We have asked for a report. If we are not happy with it [report], we will set up a committee involving officers to take corrective measures. I will also convene a meeting to review the lapses. Though we have approved jammers and CCTV cameras, it is still to be implemented in some places," he said. He said that not only a terrorist, but no one should have a mobile phone inside the prison. "If such facilities are given, then it will not become a jail," he said.

Meanwhile, the prison officials conducted surprise checks in multiple barracks on Sunday, but found no items. A complaint has been lodged with the Parappana Agrahara Police.

45-year-old murder accused shot at while trying to flee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused was wanted in connection with the abduction and murder of Hebbagodi-based businessman Balappa Reddy

The Hebbagodi police shot at a 45-year-old man, who was involved in two gruesome murders, when he allegedly attacked a policeman and tried to flee during the weapon recovery procedure at the Bommasandra crematorium in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Ravi Prasad Reddy from Gorantla village in Andhra Pradesh, was wanted in connection with the abduction and murder of Hebbagodi-based businessman Balappa Reddy. The incident took place on November 6. The accused earlier murdered Madesha, 40, a tea stall owner at his house and escaped in a scooter on November 4. M. Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronics City Division, said that Balappa Reddy, a landlord and owner of a workshop, was kidnapped from Bengaluru's Jigani Ring Road, murdered the same day, and his body was later disposed of in a forest near Hosur in Tamil Nadu.

The accused later called Balappa family and demanded ₹2 crore ransom for his release after committing the murder. Considering the gravity of the offence, the police formed a special team that tracked down the accused after confirming his involvement in both the offences.

Elaborating the motive, Mr. Narayana said that the accused is one of the tenants of Balappa and was involved in trade and finance business and incurred huge losses. In order to recover the loss, he planned to kidnap Balappa for ransom and killed him when he resisted.

While Ravi was taken to the crematorium for recovery of the weapon, he attacked head constable Ashok in a bid to escape, the police claimed. The inspector warned Ravi to stop and fired two rounds in the air before shooting at both his legs, the police said. Ravi sustained bullet injuries and collapsed. He was later taken to the hospital, along with the injured constable Ashok.

Karkala resident opens APK file, loses ₹4.07 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 49-year-old goldsmith of Erlapady village in Karkala taluk of Udupi district reportedly lost ₹4.07 lakh in a cybercrime. In a complaint to the Karkala Town police station on November 8, the victim said that on October 30, he received an APK file named PM Kisan.

Soon after he opened it, ₹1.3 lakh and ₹1.03 lakh got deducted from his account in Canara Bank's Bailoor branch. On October 31, ₹99,992 got deducted. Further, and on November 2, rest of the amount got deducted from his account.

'Recruitment of 18,000 teachers under way'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The process of recuiting 18,000 teachers in Karnataka – 12,000 for government schools and 6,000 for government-aided schools – is under way, said Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa. Participating in the centenary celebrations of Government Higher Primary School at Beluru Kusuburu village in Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district on Saturday, November 8, Mr. Bangarappa said that the government will soon take up the appointment of selected teachers to government and government-aided schools in the State.

Strengthen schools

With a view to strengthen government schools in Karnataka, the State government had introduced pre-primary classes like Lower Kindergarten and Upper Kindergarten (LKG and UKG) in government schools.

The government had also approved the establishment of about 900 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), which are model government-run schools that provide education from pre-primary classes right up to second Pre University (II PUC) under one roof with options for both English and Kannada mediums.

Free transportation

One KPS school will come up under the jurisdiction of each gram panchayat in the State and the government will ensure free transportation of the students, Mr. Bangarappa said.

Project Walkaluru: Footpaths in Koramangala earn a 'thumbs up'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Koramangala, one of Bengaluru's busiest neighbourhoods, showed that it can also be one of its most walkable.

On Sunday morning, over 40 citizens, officials and local residents set out on a five-km footpath walk to see whether Koramangala's pavements were actually usable. The walk was part of the Project Walkaluru, a citizen initiative aimed at identifying and celebrating the city's best pedestrian infrastructure. Flagged off by South Corporation Commissioner Ramesh K.N., it saw participation from Arjuna Award-winning athlete Reeth Devaiah Abraham, former Accenture chairperson Rekha Menon, among others.

The group traced a five-km loop through Koramangala 3rd Block- covering Sarjapur Road, 8th Main, 80 feet road, 7th cross and 16th main road- stopping to count obstacles that forced them off the footpath. Before the walk began, the participants guessed they would face 15 to 25 such hurdles.

In the end, they found only about eight to 10 obstacles. There were no garbage piles, no broken slabs, and no two-wheelers parked on pavements- an unusual outcome for any Bengaluru neighbourhood. Only a few cars and construction materials blocked the path in some places. A few minor irritants such as hanging wires, cow dung and stones placed to deter vehicles were also noticed, but overall the walk remained smooth.

When asked to rate the experience, most of the participants gave it a thumbs up. The first walk under the Project Walkaluru, an 11-km Rajyotsava footpath walk, was held in Shivajinagar on November 1. With the completion of the Koramangala route, the initiative has now covered 16 km and aims to reach 100 km across all five city corporations in the coming months.

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NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of scope of work
1.	**Design and Construction of Eastern Connectivity Tunnel, Approach Road, Trumpet, Ramps and Associated Works**	The Scope of Work shall include, but not be limited to, Deep Excavation, Sheet Piling, Civil, Structural, Waterproofing, Road Works, Signage, Lighting, Drainage, MEPF (including connection to the existing substation, ancillary buildings, and security systems), ICT (including integration with BIAL's existing feeder panel), Landscape (including re-routing of existing utilities) and Softscape works, as well as Traffic Management for the Trumpet/Road (including construction & coordination with the Public Department for road diversions, provision of temporary road works, utility re-routing, and removal and transplantation of existing trees to designated locations), Equipment, and activities across Landside. The project is as per below: • Construction of 1900 m approximately of cut-and-cover tunnel • Construction of Trumpet connecting Airport City Avenue - 1490 m approximately • Construction of Eastern Ramp with At Grade Road- 1365 m approximately

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information are available on BIAL website www.bengaluruairport.com under Tenders section.
The submission due date & Time shall be 10th December 2025 at IST 17:00 Hours.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail: projecttenders@bialairport.com. To submit EOI, register and login to BIAL E-Tendering website (https://www.bialtenders.com) event ID: 3555.
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Name and address of the entity seeking EOI:
Vice President - Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.,
BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport,
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Ensuring mills pay what is mandated is a tough task

This is owing to the ownership pattern of sugar mills in Karnataka, many of which are owned by powerful families from across the political spectrum, and the prevailing Central laws

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government managed to mediate and end the nine-day farmers' protest in the northern districts by announcing an additional ₹100 in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane, which now stands at ₹3,300, including ₹50 each to be contributed by the State government and sugar mills. However, given the ownership pattern of sugar mills in the State, with many being owned by powerful families from across the political spectrum, and the prevailing Central laws, the truce looks fragile.

The order on the revised FRP was issued after over several rounds of discussions with farmers, and the Chief Minister's meeting with farmers and mill representatives. The farmers had demanded ₹3,500 per tonne apart from cutting and transportation charges.

The challenge before the State government now is to make the factories pay the mandated price of ₹3,250 per tonne for a sugar recovery rate of 10.25% across the State. The Centre had fixed FRP of ₹3,400 per tonne last year, and the factories paid between ₹2,700 and ₹2,900 per tonne, apart from cutting and transport charges.

Sweet burden: A file photo of sugarcane being transported to mills on bullock carts in Athani taluk of Belagavi district.

FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE FOR SUGARCANE

Reluctance to pay

Government sources say that some factory owners, including the Nirani brothers – Murugesh Nirani, former Minister and BJP leader, and Hanumant Nirani, MLC – strongly opposed the Chief Minister's suggestion. They argued that a ₹50 increase in the base price meant a loss of ₹100 crore and that their conglomerate would not be able to absorb it.

In Karnataka, of the total 81 sugar mills, one is in the public sector and 11 in the cooperative sector. The rest are in the private sector. The Nirani family alone controls around 20 factories in north and south Karnataka. Most of the privately owned/ managed sugar mills are with highly influential political families, either associated with the Congress or the BJP and in some cases both, which has historically prevented governments from taking tough decisions.

2025 FRP

The 2025 FRP order issued by the Centre considers a basic sugar recovery of 10.25%, up from the 2024 FRP order that fixed 9.5% as the basic recovery rate. The 2025 order asks factories to pay ₹34.6 extra, for every one percent increase in recovery. Factories can deduct a similar amount in case of lower recoveries.

Recovery is a complex issue and depends on the variety of the crop, the time of harvesting, and use of efficient machinery in the factories.

Another former Minister and BJP leader Ramesh Jarkiholi, whose family owns or manages a few sugar factories, said that the average recovery in Karnataka is only 10.5%, while the average recovery in Maharashtra is between 11% and 12%.

> Only factories that get higher recovery of sugar can pay higher prices, which we cannot
>
> **RAMESH JARKIHOLI,** Former Minister and BJP leader

"Only factories that get higher recovery of sugar can pay higher prices, which we cannot," he said. His brother Satish Jarkiholi is a Minister in the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government.

What laws regulate

The guiding laws are another issue. "The sugar mill owners reminded the State government that most laws regulating sugar and sugarcane were Central Acts. The policies and executive orders controlling export of sugar and by-products, and ethanol blending were issued and modified by the Centre, they said. A factory owner from Belagavi said that his two units had multi-State licences and were regulated by the Central Sugar Ministry and not the State government," a senior officer and member of the Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission said.

This subtly indicated the owners' stance on the State government's role in handling sugarcane protest by pointing out at its limited jurisdiction. "Most millers were reluctant to follow the government's instructions on higher prices," admitted an official.

Alternative crops

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

There have been in recent years some experiments for promoting alternative sugar-yielding crops. Nirani Sugars is encouraging the cultivation of red sorghum, a 90-day crop for sugar production on pilot plots in Bagalkot and Vijayapura. This is a short-duration crop compared to the 12-month long sugarcane. It is easier to harvest and the sugar recovery is as good as sugarcane. "This may lead to reduced dependence on sugarcane in northern Karnataka districts where rainfall is less than 800 mm," said an official from the factory in Mudhol in Bagalkot district.

Cost of cultivation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Two reports submitted by agricultural economists of the University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad and Bengaluru, to the Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission put the cost of cultivation of sugarcane at ₹55,000 per acre for own land and ₹80,000 per acre for leased land.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association has urged the Union government to hike the minimum support price of sugar to ₹40.2 per kg, as the production cost of sugar at the FRP of ₹3,550 per tonne of sugarcane comes to ₹40.2 per kg. They point out that the MSP now stands at ₹31, as last revised in 2019. ISMA members say the cost of producing ethanol from molasses was ₹66 and from sugar was ₹70. These are less than or equal to the procurement prices.

Schemes for Brahmin community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao has announced new initiatives under the Vipra Self-Employment Direct Loan Scheme during the Acharyatraya Jayanthi celebration held in Bengaluru recently.

Under this scheme, members of the Brahmin community can avail themselves of loans up to ₹2 lakh to start self-employment ventures. Beneficiaries will receive a 20% subsidy, while the remaining amount is repayable at 4% interest over 34 installments.

R.V. Deshpande, chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission, launched the Chanakya Administrative Training Scheme aimed at encouraging Brahmin graduates to prepare for IAS/KAS exams.

The scheme offers up to ₹1 lakh in fee reimbursement through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Kannadigas always nurtured a rich tradition, heritage and culture: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan unveiled the statue of Acharya Shanti Sagar Maharaj, a monk of the Jain Digambar faith, at Shravanabelgola in Hassan district on Sunday. He also named the hillock, where the idol was installed later, as Shanti Giri.

The Vice-President, who is on his first visit to Karnataka after assuming office, said Kannadigas had always nurtured a rich tradition, heritage and culture. He pointed out that Shravanabelagola has been the centre of Jainism for thousands of years.

Highlighting the significance of the place, Mr. Radhakrishnan said the Gomateshwara statue atop Vindhyagiri, commissioned by Chavundaraya, a commander in the Ganga dynasty, was a magnificent testimony to human devotion and artistic genius. The history of the place traces back to Chandragupta Maurya, who renounced the throne and worldly pleasures, to accept Jainism under the guidance of Bhadrabahu and reach Shravanabelagola.

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan unveiled the statue of Acharya Shanti Sagar Maharaj, a monk of the Jain Digambar faith, at Shravanabelgola in Hassan district on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Further, the Vice-President said that his native State of Tamil Nadu had a special connection with Jainism.

"Once upon a time, two-thirds of Tamilians followed Jainism. The contributions of Jainism to Tamil literature is significant during both the Sangam and post-Sangam period," he added.

The Vice-President unveiled the statue and named the hillock in the presence of Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Jain mutt seer Charukeerthi Panditcharyavarya Bhattaraka Swamy, and others.

Fourth hillock

Shanti Giri is the fourth hillock of significance in Shravanabelagola.

Vindhyagiri is known for the 58ft monolithic statue of Gomateshwara. Chandragiri has been named after Chandragupta Maurya, as he observed Sallekhana at the place. Charugiri is the hillock where the memorials of 33 previous seers of the Jain Mutt are located. The fourth, the latest, is named after Shanti Sagar Maharaj.

The Jain Mutt of Shravanabelagola in Channarayapatna taluk took the decision to erect the statue of Acharya Santi Sagar Maharaja, to commemorate 100th anniversary of his visit to the place. The mahamastakabhisheka, the grand anointment of the Gomateshwara statue, was held in 1925 in his presence.

The Jain Mutt head, in his address, recalled that the monk, in his lifetime, faced tough challenges in following the traditions of the Digambara mudra because of the antipathy of the British rule. He had observed 9,908 days of fasting in his lifetime.

MLC seeks law on Lokayukta

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to bring transparency in the anti-corruption institution, Congress MLC Ramesh Babu has urged the State government to come up with a legislation mandating the Lokayukta and the Upalokayukta and other government officers serving in the Lokayukta institution to declare their assets and liabilities annually.

Stating that maintaining transparency in the Lokayukta is important, the legislator in his letter to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said that it is pertinent to bring a legislation to make declaration of assets and liabilities of the Lokayukta and the Upalokayukta. He pointed out that High Court judges were already declaring their assets and liabilities.

He further pointed out that the Lokayukta had not presented its annual report before the legislature between 2017 and 2021, and that it had come to his notice since it had not been placed in the Legislative Council.

Man arrested for derogatory posts on CM, Dy. CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mysuru district police have arrested a 25-year-old resident of Davangere in connection with derogatory social media posts on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Ministers Priyank Kharge and Laxmi Hebbalkar.

The Mysuru District Cyber Crime police station registered a case based on a complaint lodged on October 25 by Vijaykumar N., a resident of Bandipalya in Mysuru, who is also a convenor of KPCC, who alleged that an unidentified person had edited and distorted images of Mr. Siddaramaiah and other Congress leaders aimed at insulting them.

The complainant alleged that the social media posts contained abusive languages against the leaders and contended that the act was "unconstitutional" and aimed at disturbing peace in the society.

The district police, which investigated the matter, apprehended Rajesh D.M., aged 25, who resides in Davangere. The accused, who was taken into custody in Davangere, was produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody, said a statement from the district police.

Superintendent of Mysuru district police N. Vishnuvardhan has appreciated the efforts of Deputy Superintendent of Police R. Sreekanth, Police Inspector Sunil S.P., Police Sub Inspector Suresh Bopanna, and Police Constable Rangaswamy H.V., who were involved in cracking the case.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

The bitter truth of sugar lobby

Our *netas* and *mantris*, who speak highly about agriculture during elections, seem to be quietly ignoring farmers' interests when it comes to fixing prices for commodities. In the latest case of fixing the support price for sugarcane, legislators belonging to all three major parties and State Ministers have virtually dictated various terms and conditions while fixing ₹3,300 per tonne of cane. The reason is that many of the owners of the sugar factories in Belagavi and other districts are powerful political leaders. Farmers who grow sugarcane have to depend on these factories for their livelihood.

The sugar lobby is so powerful that the factory owners virtually decide the price for sugarcane. Factories have been accused of circumventing sugar conversion and recovery data in order to pay a lower price to farmers. While farmers would get a price for only sugarcane, factories earn income from sugar and byproducts such as molasses, ethanol, and cogeneration.

More personal attacks

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar (*pictured*), of late, appears to be launching personal attacks when questioned by the Opposition. For instance, when BJP MP Tejasvi Surya opposed the proposed tunnel project in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar called him "childish" and "waste material", instead of answering him with clarity. The Deputy Chief Minister even said the BJP MP submitted an application seeking a new car before his marriage, which was rebutted by Mr. Surya. The Bengaluru South MP said that he sought the car, as the existing one had already run more than 1 lakh km. Like all MPs, Mr. Surya said he is eligible to get the car. He sought a car just after the 2024 elections and not before the marriage, Mr. Surya said, and hit out at Mr. Shivakumar for making personal attacks. Recently, Mr. Shivakumar called Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy "empty trunk" and accused him of "lacking education and common sense" after the former Chief Minister alleged corruption in the State's property khata conversion drive. The Deputy Chief Minister would do well to speak more with data and substance than employ such language.

Too many applicants

The Dakshina Kannada district administration seems to have come under immense pressure this year while finalising the list of candidates for the district-level Karnataka Rajyotsava awards. Though the final list contained 80 candidates for the award, the aspirants' list kept increasing till the last minute. District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta, and MLCs Ivan D'Souza and Manjunath Bhandary took turns to felicitate each of the awardees. The awardees took turns to take pictures with Mr. Rao and other legislators on stage. In this confusion, advocate D. Padmanabha Kumar, who has bagged medals in masters athletics tournaments, came on stage. Claiming that his name was included at the eleventh hour, he posed for pictures with Mr. Rao, though his name did not figure in the list.

Mr. Rao, in his speech, subtly expressed difficulty in finalising the list of awardees from a big list of applicants.

Nagesh Prabhu
Raghava M.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

N Devarajan (66), Retired Senior Supervisor, Utilities and Services Dept, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 09-November-2025. Address: 5/E2, 5th Block, 5th Street, Kannadasan Nagar, Chennai-600118. Ct: 9710548078

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Chintamani/Amrut2.0/1153/ 2025-26, Dated: 06.11.2025

Name of the Work: Tender for the work of Increasing the storage capacity of Nekkundi Doddakere by deepening of existing tank bed, strengthening and improvement of Tank bed and allied works in Chintamani City under Amrut 2.0 (Tranche-2) including the Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year of Defect Liability Period) in DBOT Mode. (Call-2)

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DIPR/CP/3675/CCL/2025-26

81 arrested across five States for links with cyberfrauds

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

12 of the accused were connected to more than 30 separate crimes each, the police said

Eighty-one persons were arrested by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) in a month-long coordinated cybercrime crackdown spanning five southern States. The 25-day operation, conducted through October, targeted organised online fraud networks operating across India and resulted in seizures of critical digital evidence, fake financial instruments and communication tools, the police said.

The large-scale operation covered Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, with 28 arrests in Kerala, 23 in Maharashtra, 13 in Karnataka, 10 in Andhra Pradesh and seven in Tamil Nadu.

Among the arrested are individuals from varied professional and educational backgrounds.

Investigations revealed that 17 accused were agents or facilitators in cyberfraud operations, 11 were involved in cheque and cash withdrawals amounting to nearly ₹34.7 lakh, and 53 served as 'mule account' holders who received commissions of up to 5% for allowing the use of their accounts in fraudulent transactions. The police also seized 84 mobile phones, 101 SIM cards and 89 bank passbooks and cheque books linked to these scams.

TGCSB officials said the accused had collectively enabled more than ₹95 crore in fraudulent transactions, linked to at least 754 crime links across India. Twelve of the accused were connected to more than 30 separate crimes each, while 54 were linked to over five cases.

Multiple bank accounts have been frozen and the process of refunding victims has begun in coordination with financial institutions.

Preliminary investigations also indicate possible connections between some accused and individuals operating from outside India. Look-out circulars (LOCs) have been initiated for suspects believed to be based abroad. The arrests made under this operation are linked to 41 cases registered under the seven TGCSB Cyber Crime Police Stations .

Calling the arrests a major step in dismantling cybercrime infrastructure, TGCSB Director Shikha Goel emphasised that TGCSB's ongoing focus is on breaking the supply chain, targeting the agents, facilitators and financial intermediaries who enable fraud call centre networks, many of which operate internationally. The Bureau urged citizens to stay vigilant against emerging scams and report suspicious activity.

Minister orders probe over RSS anthem row in Kerala

General Education Minister tasks top official with investigating incident that took place during the flagging-off ceremony of Vande Bharat Express, says Railways' justification not 'convincing'

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

DYFI activists protest against the recital of an RSS song on the Vande Bharat Express in Kochi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The escalating political row in Kerala over engaging schoolchildren to render a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) anthem during the flagging-off ceremony of the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express on Saturday took a regulatory turn on Sunday.

General Education Minister V. Sivankutty has tasked the Director of General Education, Kerala, with investigating the episode and reporting any violations of the Kerala Educational Act and the Kerala Educational Rules (KER), pushing the controversy into a legal trajectory within the State government's jurisdiction.

Mr. Sivankutty said that using children as a foil to imbue government functions with a political colour was a violation of the Constitution and a cheeky trespass on children's rights, including the Right To Education.

Mr. Sivankutty stated that the Southern Railway's 'latest justification' – that the children sang their school anthem – was unconvincing. "The rules have not prescribed a common school anthem for Kerala. Ideally, the participants should have sung the national anthem," he said.

Mr. Sivankutty noted that the school, which followed the Central syllabus, could not operate outside the ambit of the KER. He said the school authorities had escorted the children to the heavily politicised function during class hours.

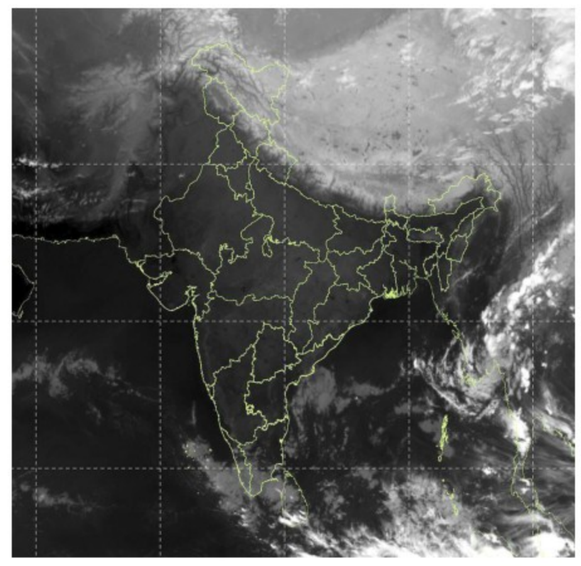
BJP response

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defended the group song.

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Tourism Suresh Gopi said the rendition was an outburst of youthful exuberance.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala & Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala & Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.8	20.2	Kozhikode	—	33.0	25.1
Ahmedabad	—	31.8	15.3	Kurnool	—	31.6	18.3
Aizawl	—	29.2	18.4	Lucknow	—	28.1	13.6
Allahabad	—	28.6	12.0	Madurai	—	29.2	22.7
Bengaluru	—	28.9	16.2	Mangaluru	—	32.9	23.2
Bhopal	—	27.5	8.0	Mumbai	—	31.8	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	30.6	17.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	28.3	11.0	New Delhi	—	25.5	11.9
Chennai	—	31.3	25.0	Patna	—	29.0	18.0
Coimbatore	—	32.2	23.4	Port Blair	005.0	30.9	24.3
Dehradun	—	29.1	12.4	Puducherry	—	31.2	22.8
Gangtok	—	21.6	12.6	Pune	—	30.7	14.3
Goa	—	32.6	22.5	Raipur	—	28.5	12.4
Guwahati	—	30.5	20.5	Ranchi	—	26.7	26.7
Hubballi	—	28.3	15.5	Shillong	—	21.9	14.4
Hyderabad	—	28.2	13.2	Shimla	—	19.2	8.8
Imphal	—	29.5	18.4	Srinagar	—	17.4	0.9
Jaipur	—	29.0	13.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.7	24.8
Kochi	020.0	27.0	24.0	Tiruchi	—	32.1	32.1
Kohima	—	—	16.6	Vijayawada	—	31.4	21.4
Kolkata	—	28.9	19.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.49	..47	34	... 197	...129	
Bengaluru	...1	..25	60	 60	...306	
Chennai	...6	7	44	... 164	...105	
Delhi	.30	..66	45	... 420	...350	
Hyderabad	...2	..18	65	... 150	98	
Kolkata	...5	..22	32	... 206	...146	
Lucknow	...6	..50	44	... 265	...173	
Mumbai	.39	...5	..9	 15	34	
Pune	...2	..16	23	... 108	...131	
Visakhapatnam	.22	..42	14	... 111	...118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 370 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana CM predicts simultaneous polls in 2029, says Congress will return to power

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy predicted simultaneous elections to the Assembly and the Lok Sabha as the Centre will go for 'One Nation, One Election', and Telangana's next elections will be in June 2029.

"Irrespective of what anyone claims, the Congress will come back in June 2029 and will be in power till 2034, this is the determined mandate of the people," he said, while revealing that all the plans he has for Telangana will be completed by then to turn it into the most prosperous State.

The Chief Minister's comments came against the backdrop of repeated claims of BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao that the BRS would return within 500 days if the Congress was defeated in the Jubilee Hills bypoll. Mr. Revanth Reddy was speaking at the 'Meet the Press' event organised by Press Club, Hyderabad on Sunday.

Highlighting the Congress's contribution to Hyderabad's growth, Mr. Revanth Reddy said the city's transformation into an IT and knowledge hub was the result of Congress-era policies.

Taking credit for investments of global companies in Hyderabad in recent times, he said that during the Congress rule, Hyderabad attracted $1 billion in investment from Eli Lilly, American Airlines, and McDonald's.

The Chief Minister accused the BRS leadership of promoting "pub culture" while the Congress government was promoting a "culture of meeting and serving the people."

Online queue booking must for darshan at Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

With the annual pilgrimage season at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple set to get under way, authorities have urged pilgrims to strictly adhere to their allotted time slots in the virtual queue (VQ) booking system to prevent crowding and ensure smooth darshan.

The Kerala Police say spot bookings are extremely limited, and those arriving without prior booking may face long delays. Officials warned that uncontrolled crowding could disrupt security arrangements and affect pilgrims' safety.

"Devotees should begin their journey only after securing a confirmed VQ slot and must arrive at the temple strictly within the allotted time," it said in a statement. They also requested pilgrims from other States to plan their travel schedules accordingly to avoid unnecessary waiting or congestion.

For safe experience

Authorities have issued a detailed list of dos and don'ts to ensure a safe pilgrimage. Pilgrims are advised to take rest for five minutes after every 10 minutes of walking during the climb and to use the traditional path, via Marakoottam, Saramkuthy, and Nadapanthal, to reach the Sannidhanam. They must follow the queue system while approaching the 18 holy steps and use the Nadapanthal flyover on their return journey.

Pilgrims may contact the 24-hour helpline number 14432 for emergency assistance.

TTD received adulterated ghee for over 5 years, finds SIT

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the ghee adulteration case under the supervision of the CBI has found that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Andhra Pradesh received supplies of adulterated ghee for over five years.

The arrest of Ajay Kumar Sugandh, the 16th accused in the case, has revealed disturbing details, including the use of chemicals such as monodiglycerides and acetic acid ester by Bhole Baba Dairy, which had a contract to supply ghee to the TTD.

In its remand report submitted to the court in Nellore, the SIT noted that the dairy, based in Uttarakhand, had managed to supply an estimated 68 lakh kilograms of ghee to the TTD between 2019 and 2024 – despite not procuring milk or butter from any source in the country.

Investigations revealed that the promoters had set up a shell unit solely to supply spurious ghee worth ₹250 crore to the TTD during the period. The milk procurement and payment records produced by the Bhole Baba Dairy promoters were found to be fabricated, as local cattle rearers confirmed they had never supplied milk to the company.

The promoters reportedly purchased a defunct dairy unit nearby and procured palm oil and kernel oil from a Delhi-based importer of Malaysian palm oil. Using these oils and other chemicals, the dairy manufactured spurious ghee exclusively for supply to the TTD.

The investigators found that the producers had indiscriminately used acetic acid esters in the final product to manipulate the RM (Reichert-Meissl) value – an essential parameter in the adulteration tests conducted by the TTD's quality control team. Notably, Bhole Baba Dairy procured acetic acid ester worth ₹7 crore from Ajay Sugandh between 2022 and 2024 alone.

Even after being blacklisted in 2022, Bhole Baba Dairy continued to supply adulterated ghee by routing its bids through other dairies, including Vyshnavi Dairy of Tirupati, Mal Ganga Dairy of Uttar Pradesh, and AR Dairy Foods of Tamil Nadu.

Professor booked in Kerala for alleged casteist remarks

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

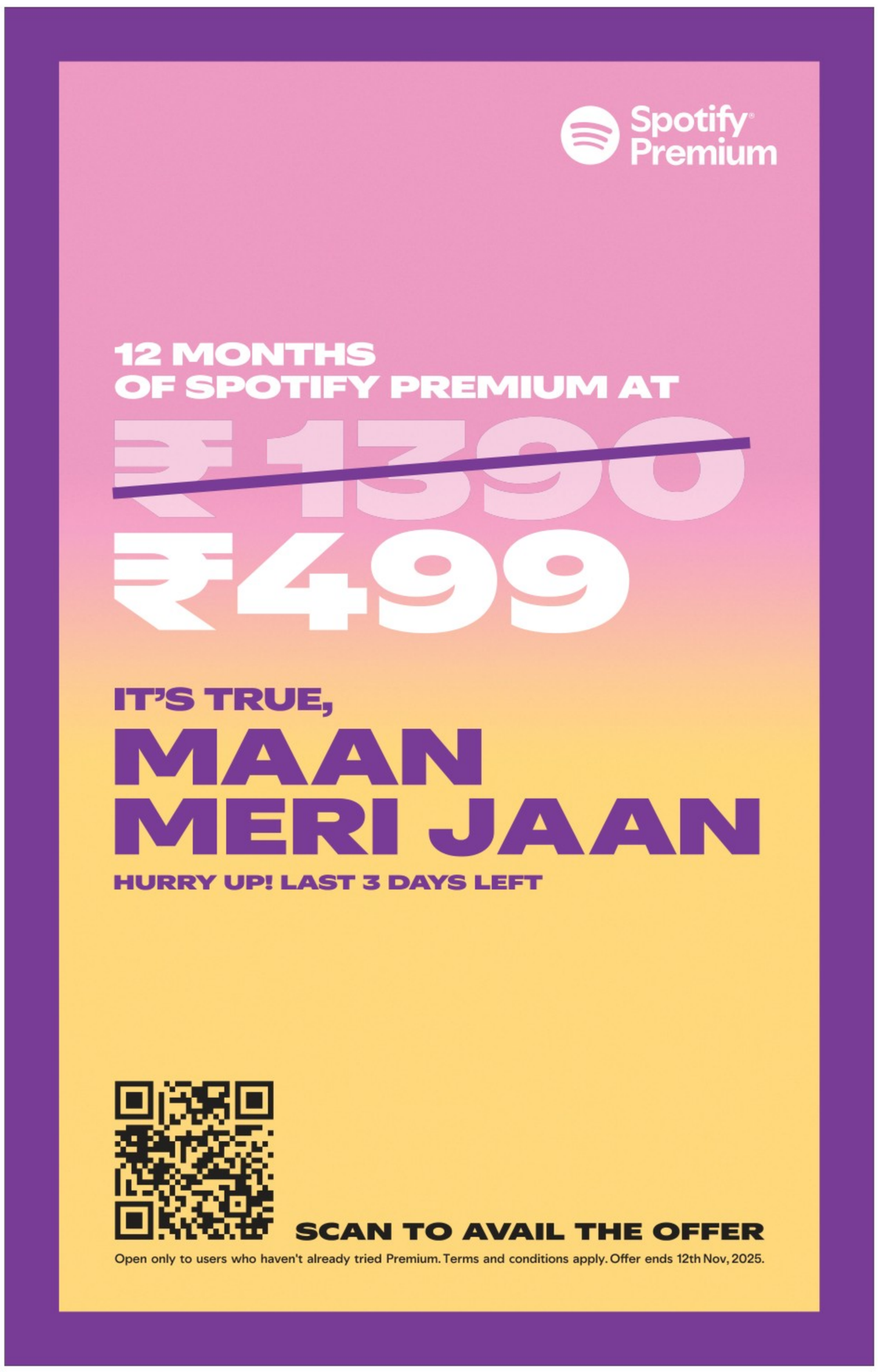
C.N. Vijayakumari, Head of the Sanskrit Department and Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Kerala University, has been booked by the police under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly making casteist remarks against a research scholar.

The police registered the case based on a complaint filed by Vipin Vijayan, a Ph.D. scholar. She has been booked under Sections 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) of the Act, relating to intentionally insulting or abusing a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe in any place within public view. According to the complaint, the Professor allegedly refused to sign Mr. Vijayan's thesis after his open defence and made derogatory remarks when he approached her again to complete the Ph.D. process. The complainant also alleged that she had made similar derogatory remarks since 2015, when he joined the M.Phil. programme at the university under her supervision.

In a Facebook post, the research scholar had accused her of attempting to sabotage his Ph.D. evaluation by questioning his knowledge of Sanskrit and claimed that her actions were motivated by caste and political bias. "My politics is left-wing. The teacher follows RSS-BJP ideology and is an active member of the Sangh Parivar-affiliated teachers' association at the university," he wrote.

Higher Education Minister R. Bindu has ordered an inquiry, and directed the Vice-Chancellor to adopt legal action against those found guilty.

The Minister also directed that the appropriateness of the faculty member's public statements in visual media be examined as part of the inquiry.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Burden of proof

Only the choice of the voters is secret, not whether they voted or not

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has made serious accusations regarding the 2024 Haryana Assembly election, turning the spotlight, yet again, on election integrity in the world's largest democracy. At the very least, his analysis has proved that India's electoral rolls are in a mess, which the Election Commission of India (ECI) says can be fixed only by an ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Mr. Gandhi, who evidently had a professional team of analysts working on it, made a claim that 25 lakh votes in Haryana were "fake" – i.e., either non-existent or duplicate – or one in every eight voters in Haryana, where the Congress had lost the 2024 election. As per Mr. Gandhi's calculations, there were 5.21 lakh duplicate voters and 93,174 invalid voters in the State, and he claimed there were 1,24,177 voters with blurred or fake photographs on the electoral rolls. To prove this point, among other facts, he cited the example of a woman – a Brazilian model whose picture was available online – whose photograph appeared 22 times across different booths in Haryana. Earlier allegations of election manipulation included bulk deletion and addition of voters, which the Congress leader has said boosted the prospects of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and undermined the Opposition. In this, the ECI is accused of colluding with the BJP.

In its defence, the ECI has marshalled some technical arguments, but they do not clear the air, regardless of the merit of the Congress charges. The argument that complaints regarding electoral rolls should have been raised within stipulated timelines and that other complaints should have been litigated through election petitions may sound procedurally sound. But such a position does not mitigate the severe trust deficit that the ECI is facing. The Congress's charges are by themselves no conclusive proof of fraud, though they certainly demonstrate systemic failure. The ECI's defensive response and its overall tendency to raise veils of opaqueness in the electoral process add credence to the Congress's charges in public perception. The best way to prove that the people who seemingly appear multiple times on the list did not actually vote multiple times is to air the recording which is made at each booth. On the disingenuous ground of voter privacy and secrecy, the ECI has restricted access to the video footage, electoral rolls and other details of the electoral process in the recent past. The only thing secret about voting should be the vote itself. Who the voters are, and who actually voted, must be open public records. The best way to allay fears regarding the electoral process is to make all information publicly available, retaining secrecy only with regard to the choice of the voter.

Greater openness

India must not squander global trust in its management of wildlife

In September, a Supreme Court-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) reported to the Court that Reliance Foundation's Vantara project in Jamnagar, Gujarat – India's largest private zoo – had been above board in the manner in which it had gone about acquiring wild animals from abroad; it had the right permits and the facilities for the upkeep of over 30,000 animals and that any criticism or aspersion of its activities on these grounds were wholly "unjustified". The Court chose not to make the report public and only appended a summary in its order with the operative observations. What the report contained in its entirety becomes relevant given that a global body has made some concerning observations and "recommended" that India's wildlife authorities pause the issue of permits that allow endangered animals to be imported by zoos. This came after the CITES committee – the most influential agreement on cross-border wildlife movement – visited Jamnagar. The visit was just after the SIT had submitted its report to the Court and from what is known from its exhaustive, public report, investigated the same issues as the SIT: permits, acquisition of animals, the facilities in Jamnagar. The CITES committee too commended Vantara's infrastructure and the expertise available for animal care. Its observations on the issue of permits casts aspersions on India's wildlife management system, not on Vantara.

The committee's reservations stemmed from observations that permit codes accompanying several animal transfers did not always accurately reflect the arrangement between the exporting country and India. For instance, the Czech Republic says that it had "sold" several animals to the procuring arms of Vantara, which denies it was a sale and that the costs incurred were ancillary (insurance and transport). The distinction is important because Indian laws do not allow its zoos to commercially procure animals. The primary objective of CITES, an international convention, is to curb animal trafficking and while lacking enforcement powers, expects countries to execute and incorporate checks into their wildlife laws. CITES does not discourage cross-border commercial transactions and only insists that these are properly recorded, with proper traceability of the animals being moved. In several instances, the committee has observed that India's authorities ought to be more proactive in engaging with counterparts in other countries to investigate suspect traceability. It is a matter of conjecture whether the Court-appointed committee also had similar observations to make. Translucent disclosure only reduces global trust in India's wildlife management and as home to some of the most important biospheres, that is a reputation it can ill afford.

End the speculation, release the AI 171 crash report

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

On June 12, 2025, 241 passengers on board Air India AI 171, perished in a fiery crash just after takeoff at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. There was one survivor passenger. Nineteen persons on the ground lost their lives, making it the first crash of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner since its introduction into commercial aviation. There are over 1,175 Dreamliners flying with various airlines, operating an average of 12 hours a day. Since the crash, Dreamliners have flown more than two million hours without a single engine failure during take-off. In the history of airline operations, there have been very rare instances of a dual engine failure on take-off. The accident involving a UPS MD-11, on November 4, 2025, is one, which was due to engine separation. After this crash, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released relevant information with daily briefings – something that never happens in India.

Ever since the crash, the electronic media and social media YouTubers have been spreading far-fetched theories to create an atmosphere of fear and also question the safety standards of the Boeing 787. What is being spread is a diversion from the truth and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India, has played into their hands by delaying the release of the final investigation report. The promise of there being a "Transparent" report as soon as possible, which the Aviation Minister announced on the day after the crash, appears to be another statement which has been swept under the carpet – as is the norm for all the aviation accident reports in India.

Here is the chronology. The crash happened on the afternoon of June 12 , 2025. According to the ANI report, one of the flight recorders was recovered on June 13 from the roof top of a building where the plane crashed. The second flight recorder was recovered from the debris on June 16. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) lab in Delhi downloaded and accessed the data by June 25. The AAIB's preliminary report was released on July 12, 2025. But this report was sketchy and only created more questions than it answered.

'Threat perception', a mysterious order

What has not drawn the attention of many is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order, based on threat perception identified by intelligence agencies, in providing the Chief of the AAIB with 'X Category Commando protection' on a 24X7 basis. This writer has been following air accident investigations of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB)-United Kingdom since 1973 and has never come across an accident investigator requiring commando protection. This order was effective from June 16, just three days after the first flight recorder was recovered. It appears that the MHA and the MoCA were aware of facts which are not being revealed to the public.

India needs to know the real facts in the June 2025 Air India AI 171 crash

The weird theories being floated around and the wild speculations could have been avoided had the Aviation Ministry been transparent with the crash findings. All that it required was a straightforward release of the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) readouts of AI 171, from the commencement of take-off roll to the time of crash, when the recording stops – a mere one minute and 40 seconds. A cryptic sentence in the preliminary accident report, "Why did you do that… I did not do that" – of a conversation between the pilots – only added to all the wild theories.

What the data would show

From the preliminary report, it was established that the copilot was the pilot flying and the captain was the pilot monitoring (doing copilot duties). Air India procedure mandates that the captain handles the thrust levers until the takeoff decision speed is attained. The copilot handles the controls. At this speed's call (autocall), the captain will remove his hands from the thrust levers. Based on the preliminary report, there should have been the following calls recorded on the CVR: at the rotation speed of 155 kts (08:08:35 in the report), the call should have been 'Rotate'. The report mentions that the lift-off was at 08:08:39 and there should have been a 'Positive Rate call' when the altimeter shows an increase in height. This call will be by the captain who was the pilot monitoring. The preliminary report follows up with a statement that the No.1 Fuel Control Switch and No. 2 Fuel control switch transitioned to cut-off in two seconds, one after the other. This shut off the fuel supply to the engines – the fuel shut off valves will close and the engines will be starved of fuel supply.

A cardinal rule in flying is that in the event of a major emergency, it is the captain who should take over the controls from the copilot, with the copilot reverting to pilot monitoring duties and carrying out the non-normal checklist that the captain would call out. In the crash of AI 171, the immediate call of the captain at 08:08:44 – when the two engines shut down – should have been "My Controls" and the immediate response of the copilot would have been "Your Controls". Were these calls recorded on the CVR? The AAIB has an experienced Boeing 787 examiner pilot in its team who would have identified this had the mandatory call outs and procedures been followed. If they were, the assumption that the engines shut down due to 'an electrical power failure' or 'software failure' (which are the theories and speculation on social media) can be considered to be a factor in the accident. The Boeing 787's fuel control switches cannot move due to a software or an electrical power glitch. They are spring-loaded switches that have to be physically lifted off the 'Run' gate, moved aft and dropped into the 'Cut-off' gate. The movement towards 'Run' to restart the engines has to follow the same procedure which is to lift the switch off the 'Cut-off' gate, moved forward and dropped into the 'Run' gate. The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), as well as the area mike of the CVR (which will record all the ambient sounds in the cockpit) will clearly record this. The Boeing 787 examiner would be aware of this, would have listened to the CVR, and would have gone through the DFDR readouts.

The DFDR would also record every control column movement and control deflections. It can be easily identified who was handling the controls during the take-off and the segment after the engine failures. What readers should know is the systems that work and what will not work in the cockpit instrument presentations. While the limited power supply from the battery and the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) limits the supply only to essential items such as the captain's instrument panel, and engine fire protection, to name a few – as an example – the instrument panel in front of the copilot goes blank. This is one of the major reasons why the captain must take over the controls immediately as the copilot will not have anything available in front of him. If the CVR did not indicate the positive takeover of controls by the captain, the facts become very evident. Is this the reason why the Ministry of Home Affairs Intelligence considered there was a threat perception to the AAIB chief?

The damage being caused

It does not take more than 100 days to identify the facts and release a transparent report. The credibility of Indian aviation is already suspect. By whitewashing an accident report, it will only add to the perception. The NTSB, the AAIB-U.K., and Boeing are aware of the DFDR and CVR readouts. The U.S Federal Aviation Administration and aviation regulators in the countries where Boeing 787s are flown, have all cleared the aircraft. The MoCA would do well to change the impression that there was an 'electrical/software issue' that caused the accident and release the investigation report immediately. The longer the Ministry delays this, the greater the danger of pilots being stressed and preoccupied with their mind anticipating this danger instead of being 100 per cent in the cockpit.

Applying the Dravidian algorithm to sports

Udhayanidhi Stalin

is the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

In my journey with the Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation, I have met countless and inspiring athletes. But one of the stories which stays with me is that of Manoj's, a young para-athlete from a modest family in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He had a contractual job at the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (TANSI). He had immense talent, but without a platform, it remained in the shadows.

That is when the Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin's government stepped in. On his instructions to spot such talent, we extended financial assistance to Manoj through the Foundation. Today, the young man is winning international competitions and bringing pride to Tamil Nadu and India. True to our word of supporting athletes beyond the podium, he now has a secure government job under the three per cent sports quota.

In policy and practice

The ideological fathers of the Dravidian Model of governance envisioned a society in which public resources should be accessible to everyone. In sports, this means removing the barriers that prevent young people in rural and urban areas from accessing facilities and support. When Mr. Stalin said that our governance must reflect the adage, "*Ellarukkum Ellam*", he also gave us a road map for sports: find talent early, build facilities across the State, support athletes with science, and reward success without delay. In sports, we have been able to translate the Dravidian algorithm into policy and practice like never before in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's athletes and its sporting ecosystem have recorded remarkable achievements – 34 of India's 89 Chess Grandmasters and two World Chess Champions. Globally, it has celebrated four Paralympic medallists and 12 Olympians at the Paris Games, including six in track and field. At the Hangzhou Asian Games, 46 of Tamil Nadu's sportspersons contributed to India's 28 medals, while at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games, 18 of its athletes won 15 medals. Tamil Nadu's Khelo Para Games tally rose to 74 medals in 2025, up from 42 in 2023, while in the National Games, the medals tally rose from 77 in 2023 to 92 in 2025 – a 20% jump. Between 2016 and 2021, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu invested about ₹ 800 crore. In comparison, our administration has allocated ₹1,945 crore over the past five years – a 143% increase.

The Tamil Nadu government's focus on sports has resulted in more medals and support for sportspersons and para-sports persons, on and off the field

Since 2021, we have built 28 new sports complexes, including multi-sport district centres, Olympic academies, high-altitude training facilities, synthetic tracks in six towns, international-standard hockey turfs, a velodrome, and modern indoor arenas. We upgraded old stadiums in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, and Tiruchi. Under phased programmes, there will be mini stadia in 75 blocks across the State and modern gyms to promote a fitter Tamil Nadu. Nearly 60% of the projects are in tier-II and tier-III towns. The Kalaignar Sports Kit Scheme provides 33 types of sports equipment, including cricket bats, volleyball nets, kabaddi mats and gym gear to every panchayat and all urban areas. Our infrastructure drive also includes para-sports. We are building accessible arenas in 11 districts and adding barrier-free features to new stadiums.

We have revamped athlete support programmes to make them data-driven, transparent, and inclusive. When we took office, only 12 athletes received yearly funding through the ELITE scheme. Today, 50 top athletes, including chess prodigies R. Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh, receive ₹30 lakh a year for training and competition exposure. Under the Mission International Medal Scheme, the number of supported athletes has risen from 48 to 125, with each receiving ₹12 lakh annually to pursue international qualification. The Champions Development Scheme nurtures 200 under-20 talents with ₹4 lakh yearly scholarships.

A system of accountability

A high-level committee of Olympians and sports scientists oversees athlete selection, with clear performance standards shared in advance. Para-athletes also receive the same level of support and incentives. Since 2021, 4,617 sportspersons have been awarded cash incentives worth ₹152 crore, which is four times the ₹38 crore given over the previous decade. Incentives for Olympic and Paralympic medal winners have been increased to ₹3 crore for gold, ₹2 crore for silver, and ₹1 crore for bronze, with payments made after the event. We introduced the Chief Minister's Trophy games across all districts, including e-sports and traditional disciplines such as silambam. Registrations have grown from 4.57 lakh in 2023 to 16.28 lakh in 2025, supported by a dedicated Games Management System that tracks every athlete's profile. Each year, we identify about 4,000 youngsters through competitions and place them in SDAT sports hostels, Centres of Excellence, and STAR academies. Transparent online registrations and AI-based talent scouting ensure that no deserving athlete is left out because of background or location.

Under our regime, the 3% sports quota for government jobs, a lifeline for athletes, has been revitalised. While only three athletes secured jobs under the previous government, we have facilitated employment for 109 sportspersons.

Communities that were once left out of mainstream sports are now becoming part of Tamil Nadu's success story. At the high-performance tennis facility in Nungambakkam, rural women have gained new opportunities to train and compete. Thus, in 2023, Tamil Nadu's women captured all four tennis gold medals at the Khelo India Games.

Hosting major competitions positions Tamil Nadu as a hub of sports tourism. In 2022, Chennai became the first Indian city to host the prestigious 44th Chess Olympiad. The tournament drew 188 teams from 186 nations, and was organised on a budget of about ₹110 crore. Since then, we have hosted the Squash World Cup, the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, the World Surf League, the Asian Junior Athletics Championships, WTA and ATP tennis events, and India's first Formula-4 street night race.

Looking ahead

We have also set up the Tamil Nadu Centre for Sports Science, invested in digital platforms for athlete management, and trained coaches in areas such as biomechanics, nutrition and psychology. In the next phase, we will build a Global Sports City in Chennai, expand our sports science facilities, and strengthen our para-sports programmes.

Sports are not merely about games; they are also the instruments of social engineering. In a State that gave rise to the rationalist and social justice movements, it is only fitting that we create a Dravidian Model for sports. Our success is measured not only in medals but also in the widening smiles of children from every corner of Tamil Nadu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Elections and questions

The wafer-thin line between welfare schemes and earning political mileage from them is being cleverly exploited by politicians during elections. The code of conduct often goes for a toss and the Election Commission of India's actions are lopsided most of the time. It is the same with election expenses. Whether parties spend from their party funds is never known. Parties promise freebies and no authority seems to question how the funding for the freebies promised would be met. The electoral system is in need of a total revamp. There is much attention on 'Vote *chori*', but the important questions never get asked.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Women in Blue

The ODI World Cup win by the Women in Blue should inspire girls in India who wish to take up sport as a career. Women's cricket in India has traversed a path of extraordinary change — from modest beginnings to global triumph ('Ground Zero' page, "Breaking boundaries", November 8). Earlier, players faced struggles that many would find hard to imagine.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

What the Opposition can learn from Mamdani

Vanya Vaidehi Bhargav

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (History), National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

His cosmopolitan eliteness and the particularities of the American political context notwithstanding, Zohran Mamdani's campaign for New York City mayor can offer valuable insights for Opposition politics in India. Mr. Mamdani refused to disparage right-wing voters as irrational bigots. He responded to Donald Trump's 2024 victory by listening to Trump supporters with empathy, asking them about their core grievances. This honestly acknowledged some reasons why working-class people voted for Mr. Trump. Mr. Mamdani then developed a cogent, concrete economic programme addressing these grievances.

An economic agenda

The bedrock of Mr. Mamdani's agenda remains economic. He repeatedly returned to issues of rent, free and fast buses, and universal childcare. On this foundation, he built a national vision for American society, polity and culture which is liberal, democratic, egalitarian, pluralist, internationalist, and humane. Here, he is unlike those Indian progressives who prioritise a national vision of communal harmony at the expense of communicating a concrete, credible economic agenda. Equally, unlike India's 'centrist' forces, such as the Aam Aadmi Party or some economic pundits, Mr. Mamdani avoided the reverse mistake: of prioritising economics while side-stepping crucial questions of ideology and nationalism. Mr. Mamdani realises that politics is not narrowly about material interests, but also values and culture. He was unafraid of defending his cultural, social and political vision of the U.S. against right-wing attacks. And due to his own clarity about it, he could credibly connect his vision to the experiences of different voters.

Mr. Mamdani consistently advanced a multi-layered political narrative. He did not frame it negatively as anti-Trump. Apart from the mayoral debates, his campaign was not anti-Andrew Cuomo either. It was a realisation that politics centred around a laundry list of your political opponent's wrongs works only as a supplementary narrative. Mr. Mamdani used good-faith logic, reason and evidence to show how his vision is more beneficial for the people; as a corollary, he showed how his opponents' vision would harm them.

Refusing to contemptuously 'call out' his right-wing and centrist critics or sceptics, he instead 'called them in' to his politics. Such politics is rare and much needed. To reach these voters, Mr. Mamdani gave measured interviews to 'centrist' media such as *The New York Times* and conservative media such as Fox News. This reflects that engagement need not mean complicity but can express a commitment to the democratic politics of persuasion.

Mr. Mamdani's careful engagement with detractors showed awareness that building coalitions is indispensable to winning power and realising one's political agenda. Despite his socialist tilt, he won endorsements from hyper-cautious 'centrist' Democrats like Kathy Hochul; consistent advice from a former Obama administration official; and engagement from business leaders.

The same political acumen about the need to build a coalition was evident when he re-calibrated some of his positions in response to his opponents' concerns. To 'take along' police officers and voters concerned about public safety, he retreated from his labelling of the New York City Police Department as racist and his position on 'defunding' the police. Despite leading among Jewish New Yorkers, he sought to reassure his Jewish opponents by discouraging the phrase 'Globalise the Intifada'. These shifts do not signify an abandonment or dilution of his core ideals, but the realisation that small, meaningful political compromises – on account of political complexity and the desire to be as fair to others as possible – are required to build the coalition needed to realise his core vision. Unlike the Indian Left, Mr. Mamdani understands that small-order compromises are possible while substantially maintaining ideological authenticity; that they are crucial to winning power which, in turn, is key to enforcing ideology; and that ideological purism breeds sectarianism, which is politically self-defeating.

Effective communication

It is sometimes argued that the Indian Left's failure results from a structural problem: the lack of support from capitalists in the context where money wins elections. Rather than offering excuses, Mr. Mamdani accepted this constraint as a brute fact, and worked around it. Apart from coalition-building, he sought to overcome this constraint through door-to-door canvassing and social media. Both were central to him receiving small donations directly from individuals. Key to this was effective political communication. Instead of relying on outmoded political languages of the 20th century, his social media videos creatively unpacked complex political issues in an accessible and relevant manner. They also combined consistent political messaging with food, emotion, and humour that humanised Mr. Mamdani. The combination of 'message discipline' and humanity made him appear committed, sincere and relatable, thus winning the trust of voters deeply disillusioned with most establishment politicians.

Mr. Mamdani's governance will require subsequent assessment. Relatively inexperienced, he must now prove he can implement his agenda, meet political challenges, and do so without alienating unlikely allies or worsening polarisation. But meanwhile, potential lessons may be drawn from his historic victory.

The particularities of the American political context notwithstanding, Zohran Mamdani's campaign for New York City mayor can offer valuable insights for Opposition politics in India

A controversial exercise

The DMK and its allies have expressed many apprehensions about the SIR

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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As anticipated, the DMK and its allies in Tamil Nadu have launched an attack against the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of next year's Assembly elections. Their concern is that the exercise, being conducted with undue haste, could precipitate arbitrary deletions and additions of voters, particularly affecting minorities and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They believe that it effectively functions as a de facto National Register of Citizens.

In a petition filed before the Supreme Court, the DMK has contended that by imposing citizenship-like burdens of proof upon electors, the SIR exceeds its statutory remit and infringes upon citizens' fundamental right to vote. Its argument centres on the proposition that the unilateral 'imposition' of such an unprecedented, resource-intensive, and socially disruptive process upon a State, without consultation or demonstrable administrative exigency, transgresses the federal structure of the Constitution, recognised as part of its basic structure. The party has emphasised that in bypassing statutory safeguards, the State concerned has effectively been reduced to a mere implementing agency for centrally determined, unilateral processes, thereby posing a grave risk of disenfranchising large numbers of bona fide voters. It has informed the Court that the manner in which the SIR has been directed to be conducted is found neither in the

Representation of the People Act, 1950, nor in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Ever since more than 68 lakh names were deleted from the voter lists in Bihar, triggering outrage from Opposition parties, the DMK and its allies have been apprehensive about the exercise. There were allegations that genuine voters, particularly Muslims, were removed from the rolls. The DMK and its allies view the SIR as a "ploy" to deprive legitimate voters of their right to franchise. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has emphasised the need for an authentic and transparent electoral roll, saying adequate time must be given to complete the process.

The DMK and its allies convened an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, although it was boycotted by the AIADMK and the BJP and several smaller factions. The DMK-led alliance has announced Statewide demonstrations on November 14 against the SIR, which commenced on November 4. About 68,700 booth-level officers were engaged in the enumeration, with each officer tasked to cover a vast number of households within a short period. The party has even established a help centre with a dedicated telephone number to address citizens' concerns regarding the SIR.

Former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has dismissed these concerns, contending that since the entire exercise is being carried out by State government employees, any discrepancies would be the DMK's responsibility. BJP State president Nainar Nagenthran echoed similar sentiments, urging his party members to remain vigilant against what he characterised as a conspiracy to remove voters from the rolls. However, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, headed by actor Vijay, has also opposed the SIR.

Voters in Tamil Nadu appear increasingly confused by the contradictory positions of the DMK and its allies on the one hand and the AIADMK and its partners on the other.

Mr. Stalin has cautioned that the details sought by the ECI in the enumeration form may leave even the more discerning sections of the electorate bewildered, potentially resulting in deletions on the pretext of non-compliance with procedural requirements. To underscore his point, he recalled the clarification provided by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) regarding the requirement to affix a new photograph to the form. While the CEO stated that this was optional, it remains unclear whether Electoral Registration Officers across the State will adopt a consistent approach to the matter. The abbreviated time frame of 30 days to complete the exercise will, according to the DMK and its allies, be disastrous.

The DMK and its allies also believe that the inclusion of lakhs of migrant workers from Hindi-speaking States would alter the demographic composition of the voters' list and favour only the BJP and its allies. They believe the inclusion is an indirect strategy employed by the BJP to gain a foothold in Tamil Nadu. The DMK-led alliance now pins its hopes on the Supreme Court.

Why a socialist won in the world's financial capital

Voters' preferences in New York align closely with Zohran Mamdani's welfare-state policies

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Nitika Francis

Last week, Democrat Zohran Mamdani, 34, defeated Andrew Cuomo, an independent, to become New York City's youngest mayor in a century. Mr. Mamdani has promised to implement rent freezes, establish public grocery stores, expand universal childcare, introduce fare-free buses, and increase access to affordable housing. To fund these proposals, he has suggested increasing corporate taxes and additional taxes on millionaires.

Mr. Mamdani's identity – he is Muslim and was born in Uganda to Indian parents – and policies struck a chord with the city's residents, who have traditionally favoured career politicians and wealthier candidates for the post. Previous mayors include Michael Bloomberg, who had also pledged a substantial sum in support of Mr. Cuomo. Support from several billionaires and threats from U.S. President Donald Trump to cut federal funds for the city could not stop Mr. Mamdani's welfare-state campaign. As a result, New York City, chosen as the world's top financial centre for the sixth time in 2024 by the Global Financial Centres Index, is going to be led by a democratic socialist. The reasons for this shift are clear. As the financial hub evolves, so do its workers, voters, and their preferences, which now align closely with the solutions proposed by Mr. Mamdani.

The share of people employed in finance, insurance, and related fields such as investment banking, brokerage, and portfolio management in New York has declined from over 16% to just above 13% **(Table 1)**. In contrast, the share of those working in private education, healthcare, and social assistance – including teachers, nurses, and childcare workers, who are generally lower paid – has increased from over 30% to about 40%. Moreover, about one in four of the New York State's residents are now foreign-born.

It is no surprise that Mr. Mamdani's policies aimed at making housing, transport, and food more affordable have resonated with the city's residents, as prices in all these areas have been rising faster in New York compared with many other metropolitan areas in the U.S. In New York City, average housing expenditures rose by more than 68% between FY12 and FY22, the highest among those listed in **Table 2**. Average transportation costs increased by about 56% between FY13 and FY23, compared with a national average of 41.5%. Similarly, average food expenditures grew by over 56% during the same period, compared with a national average of 46.4%. New York and San Francisco are the only two metros where costs have increased by over 55% in all three areas.

Mr. Mamdani's margin of victory over Mr. Cuomo exceeded 10 percentage points in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Bronx, where the proportion of residents living in poverty and the share of those relying on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are notably higher. In contrast, Mr. Cuomo led in Staten Island, where both shares are the lowest, and Mr. Mamdani's lead was much narrower in Queens, which also has relatively fewer low-income residents **(Table 3).**

Data published by *The New York Times* indicates that Mr. Mamdani's policies had a clear impact on the election outcome. According to the paper's post-election analysis, 57% of voters in precincts where most residents live in rented accommodation supported Mr. Mamdani. Similarly, about 62% of voters in precincts with a majority of public transport commuters backed him. In contrast, in precincts dominated by homeowners and car commuters, more than half voted for Mr. Cuomo.

City of shifts

The data for the charts have been sourced from Current Employment Statistics by New York State's Department of Labor, the New York City Council, NY State Comptroller, and the New York Times

Table 1: The sector-wise share of employees (in %) in New York City over the years

Industry	2005	2015	2025
Private education, health care, social assistance	30.2%	32.9%	40.3%
Finance, insurance and other related activities	16.7%	14.5%	13.7%
Local, Federal and State govt.	12.3%	10.7%	9.9%
Professional, scientific and technical	6.6%	7.4%	7.1%
Retail and wholesale trade	9.3%	9.1%	6.6%
Accommodation and food services	4.7%	6.3%	5.6%
Admin & support and waste management	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%
Others	3.3%	3.4%	2.8%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%
Mining, logging and construction	2.5%	2.6%	2.1%
Real estate	2.5%	2.3%	2.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%
Management of firms	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%
Manufacturing	2.5%	1.4%	0.8%

Table 2 : The average increase (in %) in various expenditures across select metropolitan areas in the U.S.

Metropolitan area	Housing expenditure change (2011–12 to 2021–22, in %)	Transport expenditure change (2012–13 to 2022–23, in %)	Food expenditure change (2012–13 to 2022–23, in %)
Chicago	40.1%	19.0%	47.8%
Dallas	44.4%	20.6%	33.1%
Houston	38.9%	28.7%	15.5%
Los Angeles	42.7%	64.8%	55.4%
Miami	58.3%	119.4%	43.7%
New York	68.4%	55.9%	56.2%
Philadelphia	57.0%	40.1%	57.5%
San Diego	52.2%	50.6%	68.2%
San Francisco	61.9%	64.6%	68.3%
Seattle	66.7%	33.9%	54.3%
United States	-	41.5%	46.4%

Table 3: Vote share margin, share of population on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the population identified as poor

Borough	Lead margin (in % points)	Share of population on SNAP (in %, latest data)	Poverty level (in %, latest data)
Bronx	Mamdani +11	20.2%	27.6%
Brooklyn	Mamdani +20	15.2%	19.8%
Manhattan	Mamdani +10	14.9%	17.2%
Queens	Mamdani +5	12.5%	13.1%
Staten Island	Cuomo +33	11.5%	11.2%

Mamdani's margin of victory over Cuomo was more than 10 % points in Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn, where the share of those relying on SNAP and the share of residents living in poverty are higher

57 % of voters in precincts where most residents live in rented accommodation supported Mamdani

62 % of voters in precincts with a majority of public transport commuters backed Mamdani

Table 4: The table presents the vote shares across different precincts aggregated by various categories as reported by the New York Times

Area	Mamdani	Cuomo	Sliwa
Mostly white residents	38%	52%	8%
Mostly Asian residents	47%	43%	10%
Mostly Black residents	61%	35%	3%
Mostly Hispanic residents	57%	37%	6%
Where Trump won in 2024	21%	63%	16%
Where Harris won in 2024	58%	36%	5%
Mostly renters	57%	37%	5%
Mostly homeowners	36%	51%	12%
Mostly public transport commuters	62%	33%	4%
Mostly car commuters	30%	53%	16%

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1975

British neurosurgeon advises motor cyclists to wear crash helmets

Madras, Nov 9: Mr. Lawrence Walsh, noted British neurosurgeon, yesterday advised motor cycle and scooter riders to wear crash helmets and motorists to use seat belts.

Mr. Walsh, Consultant neurosurgeon at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and St. George's Hospital, London, told The Hindu that crash helmets definitely improved the chances of recovery in case of head injuries. As regards seat belts in motor cars, certain disadvantages like possible injuries to the neck had been pointed out, but on balance he was sure they would have saved a lot of lives.

He found that crash helmets were not very common with motor cyclists and scooter riders in India. In the United Kingdom, however, the law required them to wear helmets. In the case of seat belts, while every car was required to have them, it was not obligatory to use them.

As regards legal sanctions to make the people wear crash helmets and seat belts, he felt that the devices should first gain widespread acceptance. Only if they were accepted by a majority could a law be passed; otherwise, it would become difficult to enforce it.

Mr. Walsh, who is in Madras to attend the Silver Jubilee scientific congress of the Institute of Neurology, said a major development in recent years was the employment of "EMI Scanning," which provided a lot of information about the brain by using X-rays and without resort to injection or surgery. This technique had been very helpful since 1972 in diagnosing tumours and various other conditions of the brain.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1925

Revival of Russian trade

London, Nov. 9: As illustrating the revival of Russian trade official figure show the weight of tea shipped from London to Russia in October at 1,770 thousand pounds compared with 855 thousand in September and 231 thousand in August and 517 thousand pounds of cotton yarn in October compared with 356 thousand and 152 thousand pounds in September and August, respectively.

From Page One

3 held in Gujarat over 'terror conspiracy'

The investigation revealed that his associates, Mr. Sheikh and Mr. Saleem, both from Uttar Pradesh, supplied him with weapons procured from Hanumangadh in Rajasthan. They were arrested in Banaskantha district based on digital evidence from Mr. Saiyed's phone.

Officials seized three phones and two laptops from the suspects. An analysis of their call records indicated reconnaissance activities spanning roughly a year, they said. The ATS has not yet found evidence of a local sleeper cell but is continuing to probe possible links with national and international groups.

"The CDR [call detail record] and interrogation of the accused showed they had been conducting reconnaissance [operations of sensitive locations] for the last year," Mr. Joshi said.

Whether they are involved with the ISKP is a matter of investigation, he said, adding that the Gujarat ATS was investigating the case in different States.

Mr. Joshi said Central and State agencies were coordinating to apprehend more suspects. The accused have been charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Arms Act.

Mr. Saiyed has been remanded in ATS custody until November 17, while Mr. Sheikh and Mr. Saleem were presented before a court on Sunday for further proceedings.

Investigation finds train crossed signal in red

"The crew are held responsible for not controlling the train at the right time and right position before the 'danger signal...," the source who had access to the report told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

AILRSA zonal secretary V.K. Tiwari said an attempt was being made to blame loco pilots immediately after the accident even without conducting an inquiry. He said the train was running at 45 kmph after crossing the earlier signal in yellow and the loco pilots picked up speed to 76 kmph, probably thinking that the double-yellow signal meant for the adjacent line in the curve was for them.

"However, on seeing another train on the same line, the loco pilot applied emergency brakes and brought down the speed of the train. The speed of the MEMU at the time of collision was 48 kmph going by data logger report," Mr. Tiwari said.

B.K. Mishra, Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation, South Eastern Circle, Kolkata, concluded his mandatory investigation. "The AILRSA has given a representation to the CRS conveying our concerns," he said.

Campaigning in Bihar ends, polls tomorrow

"Nitish Kumar*ji* is in the Chief Minister's chair and Narendra Modi*ji* is in the Prime Minister's chair. There is no vacancy, so don't waste your efforts," he said.

Mr. Shah also listed out achievements of the NDA government, saying Mr. Modi had undertaken the task of providing 5 kg of free food grains every month to 8.52 crore poor people in Bihar. He added that 87 lakh farmers were being given ₹6,000 every year under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, and after the formation of the new NDA government, it will be increased to ₹9,000.

CM lists achievements

Mr. Kumar, who addressed rallies in Rohtas and Aaurangabad districts, said his government had taken important steps in the fields of education, health, road connectivity, and women empowerment. He appealed to voters to "not allow the return of jungle raj".

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, while addressing rallies in Kishanganj and Purnia of Seemanchal, said, Mr. Kumar had destroyed employment potential of Bihar. Mr. Gandhi said universities and colleges in Bihar are being "sold or shut".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressing rallies in Goh and Mohania, said the BJP and NDA never practised the politics of caste or religion, but the politics of justice and humanity. He questioned Mr. Gandhi's allegation that the EC "stole votes" in Bihar, calling it false and irresponsible.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, the Grand Alliance's chief ministerial candidate, held 16 rallies on the last day of campaigning and appealed to voters to "give him a chance to create a new Bihar" and also to fulfil election promises.

Gurugram teenager shot by classmate in flat

The police said the family was not present in the flat at the time of the shooting.

A pistol, five live cartridges, and an empty cartridge were recovered from the scene, and a magazine and 65 live cartridges were recovered from a box inside the room, the police said.

The security guard and neighbours made a call to the police control room on hearing the gunshot. The victim was shifted to hospital before a police team reached the spot.

Modi hails development journey of Uttarakhand

PM launches projects worth ₹8,140 crore, says the State can become 'spiritual capital of the world', lauds Pushkar Singh Dhami government for bringing Uniform Civil Code, anti-conversion law

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various development projects worth over ₹8,140 crore in Uttarakhand, at an event to mark the silver jubilee of the State's formation. Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on November 9, 2000.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun on Sunday. ANI

The Prime Minister says projects worth over ₹2 lakh crore are currently under way in the State

At the public event in Dehradun, Mr. Modi, donning a traditional *Pahari* cap, lauded the Pushkar Singh Dhami government for its implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, calling the law a model for other States. He also praised the State government for its "bold policies" on issues of national importance, such as the anti-conversion law and riot-control law.

The Prime Minister said the government had taken firm action on issues such as rampant land encroachment and demographic change, and lauded its disaster management efforts, which had led to "prompt and sensitive assistance to people".

Mr. Modi said Uttarakhand's formation was the result of a long struggle that reached a crescendo 25 years ago under the Union government led by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He also paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Statehood movement.

In a speech interspersed with Gharwali and Kumaoni words, Mr. Modi said he shared a deep emotional connection with the people of Uttarakhand, whose hard work inspired him.

'Spiritual capital'

Hailing the *Char Dham* temples and the increasing number of pilgrims who visit them, Mr. Modi said the State can become the "spiritual capital of the world". He also highlighted the numerous ashrams and yoga and meditation centres across the State in this regard.

He further mentioned dishes such as *dubke*, *chudkani*, *rot-arsa*, *ras-bhaat*, and *jhangore ki kheer*, as he showered praise on the State's cuisine. The Prime Minister underscored the growth journey of the State in the past 25 years and said the Himalayan State was now emerging as a "film destination" as well as a "wedding destination" among people from not just India, but from other parts of the world.

Development projects

He said Uttarakhand's development journey had seen many obstacles and the strong government under the leadership of Mr. Dhami had overcome these challenges and ensured uninterrupted development of the State.

The projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister pertain to several sectors, including drinking water, irrigation, technical education, energy, urban development, sports, and skill development.

Mr. Modi added that projects worth over ₹2 lakh crore were currently being implemented in the State, including the *Char Dham* ropeway and Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail project.

SIR is a system to institutionalise vote theft, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Rahul Gandhi

The special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by the Election Commission (EC) is a system to "cover up the vote *chori* (theft) and institutionalise it", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said at Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar are "jointly attacking" democracy and the Constitution.

"The main issue is of vote *chori* and the SIR is a system to cover it up and institutionalise it. The democracy and [B.R.] Ambedkar ji's Constitution are being attacked directly," Mr. Gandhi said, speaking to presspersons in Pachmarhi before leaving for Bihar to campaign for the Assembly election.

The EC launched the second phase of the SIR in nine States and three Union Territories, including Madhya Pradesh, on November 4. More than 68 lakh names were deleted from the electoral rolls in the first phase in Bihar.

The Congress leader also claimed that vote theft had taken place in the last Assembly elections in various States, including M.P., Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

More evidence

"A few days ago, I gave a presentation on Haryana, and you clearly saw that vote theft was taking place...25 lakh votes were stolen... After looking at the data, I believe that the same thing happened in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh," he said, adding that he had "more evidence" which will be revealed gradually.

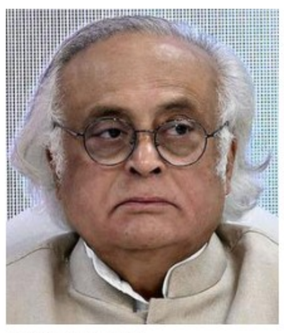
"We have a variety of detailed information. We will release it. We have only shown very little of it so far," he said.

Congress slams PM's *Vande Mataram* remarks, says he is trying to distort history

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Continuing with its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks linking the 1937 omission of certain stanzas of the National Song *Vande Mataram* to the "seeds of Partition", the Congress on Sunday said that Mr. Modi had "insulted" Rabindranath Tagore and the Congress Working Committee (CWC) of the time, and that he was trying to distort history to deflect attention from "pressing national concerns".

The Prime Minister had "insulted" both the CWC and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, whose advice had shaped the decision to retain only the first two stanzas for official use, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said.



Jairam Ramesh

Giving an account of the CWC that met in Kolkata in 1937, Mr. Ramesh said that those present included Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sarojini Naidu, J.B. Kripalani, Bhulabhai Desai, Jamnalal Bajaj, and Narendra Deva.

Mr. Ramesh cited *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* (Volume 66) to support his claim, noting that the CWC had issued a statement on October 28, 1937, which was "profoundly influenced" by Tagore's advice.

Tagore had recommended limiting the song to its first two stanzas to ensure inclusivity, as the later verses contained religious imagery that could alienate sections of society.

"That the Prime Minister should insult this CWC and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is shocking but not surprising, since the RSS had played no role in our Freedom Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi," Mr. Ramesh said.

"The Prime Minister should fight his current political battles on current issues that are of daily concern to crores of Indians who worry about their present and future," Mr. Ramesh said.

Descendants claim neglect of the house of Bankim Chandra

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

They urge Bengal govt. to conduct an investigation into the misuse of the property

Family members of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on Sunday joined the BJP leadership in highlighting the neglect of the house of the writer, which was taken over by the West Bengal government almost two decades ago.

Sajal Chattopadhyay and Sumitra Chattopadhyay, fifth generation descendents of the celebrated poet and novelist, joined State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya in raising the neglect of the house.

The State BJP president said the house on Pratap Chatterjee Street in Kolkata was taken over by the West Bengal government during the Left Front regime, and in 2006, the late Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee set up a library there. In 2014, a statue of the poet was set up in the compound by Trinamool Congress councillor Partha Bose.

During the press conference, the BJP leader played a video of the library where people were seen occupying the space, and clothes were put up for drying over the poet's statue.

Mr. Sumitra urged the West Bengal government to conduct an investigation into the "misuse of the property". Claiming that the celebration of 150 years of *Vande Mataram* was not a political programme, he said the West Bengal government should have hold a similar celebration to honour the writer.

CRPF jawan injured in IED blast in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan was injured when a pressure Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by Maoists went off in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Sunday, a police officer said.

The officer added that the blast caused serious injuries to the jawan's legs.

The IED was triggered when the jawan posted with the 74 battalion of the CRPF was out on an area domination exercise in the forested hills near Gogunda. After preliminary treatment, the injured jawan was being airlifted to Raipur for further medication, a police statement added.

Detecting IEDs which are planted along the road and dirt tracks in forests remain a challenge for the security personnel.

Crackdown on terror operatives under way across Jammu

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday extended the ongoing crackdown against terror operatives to different areas across Jammu, targeting local terrorists operating from Pakistan, and their overground workers (OGWs), officials said.

A massive search and cordon operation is underway at dozens of places in Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Reasi, Poonch, and Rajouri districts, they said.

On Saturday, scores of suspected persons were called for questioning amid a massive anti-terrorist operation in Doda district of Jammu.

The searches were intensified as intelligence reports suggest that terrorists operating in the higher reaches are looking for safe hideouts in the plains for the winter.

The operations were carried out under the supervision of Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, and were aimed at tracing suspicious activities of the relatives of Jammu and Kashmir natives operating from Pakistan, verifying antecedents of suspected individuals, and tightening security around vulnerable areas, the spokesperson said.

The police teams thoroughly inspected multiple premises to ensure no anti-national or unlawful activities were being carried out or supported, the spokesperson said.

'Mamdani's win shows Indian diaspora vote that went to Trump has shifted back'

Suhasini Haidar
ZURICH

The U.S. election win of Zohran Mamdani and other Indian-American candidates may mark a return of votes from some of the diaspora, especially young men, who had shifted their support to Donald Trump and the Republican Party in 2024, says an expert on diaspora politics.

Zohran Mamdani

According to Milan Vaishnav, the director of the South Asia Programme at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the shift may also be a backlash to anti-immigrant campaigns by Republican and Make America Great Again (MAGA) supporters.

Along with Mr. Mamdani's win, the Indian-American community in the U.S. claimed two other wins. In Virginia, Hyderabad-born state Senator Ghazala Hashmi was elected Lieutenant Governor, the first Muslim American woman to be elected to state-wide office anywhere in the U.S., who flipped a Republican seat. In Ohio's Cincinnati city, Aftab Pureval, of mixed Tibetan-Sikh parentage, was re-elected Mayor, defeating Republican Cory Bowman.

"What all these candidates have in common is that they were not shrinking away from their identity, their culture, their religion. This is important [at] a time [when] the Indian-American community does feel a sense of unease, of threat, even if you go by kind of language used online amongst the MAGA supporters," Mr. Vaishnav told *The Hindu*.

He said many young Indian-origin men had shifted their vote from Democrat to Republican in 2024, and voted for Mr. Trump, moving support for Democrats versus Republicans amongst the Indian diaspora from 70%-20% to 60%-30%. "A lot of Indian-American men switched to Mamdani, which tells you that some of the vote for Trump may not have been deeply ideological, but they felt Trump was offering what the country needed at that particular moment," he said.

When asked about Mr. Mamdani's comments criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, and whether that may have lost him some votes among the Indian community, Mr. Vaishnav said that the election had been fought on "local issues" so this may not have been a factor.

"But I think... the Government of India and its interlocutors have to invest in building relationships with a wide variety of people," he said, adding that the Indian government should "broad-base" its engagement with the Indian diaspora, and not restrict itself to the MAGA base.

(For full interview, scan the QR code)

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Tejashwi Yadav showered with birthday wishes

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday promised to give a "return gift" to his supporters who showered him with birthday wishes on the final day of campaigning for the Bihar Assembly elections.

The leader, who turned 36, was also presented with a birthday cake when he reached the Karakat Assembly seat of Rohtas district, to start his campaign for the day.

"I thank you all for the birthday wishes. I promise you that as soon as we form government, after counting of votes on November 14, you all will get a return gift", he said.

Mr. Yadav, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, said, "You have given the NDA a chance to rule for 20 years. Give me a chance. I will prove myself in 20 months." PTI

Tejashwi Yadav

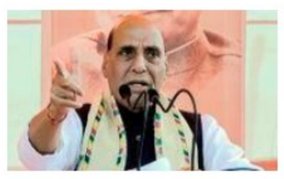
Bihar to elect young, energetic CM: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said winds of change are blowing across Bihar and the INDIA bloc is poised for victory in the ongoing elections.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said the public mood in Bihar clearly indicates a desire for a young and energetic Chief Minister in RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

"Bihar, along with bringing change, is going to elect a young Chief Minister. Bihar is going to get a young Chief Minister with new energy, Tejashwi Yadav. He has the support of the people," he added.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav said the RJD-led *Mahagatbandhan* and INDIA bloc are heading towards victory in Bihar, and their success will further strengthen the alliance nationally after the polls. PTI



> The days are over when RJD used to say as long as there are potatoes in a samosa, there will be Lalu in Bihar. NDA can provide tasty samosas
>
> **RAJNATH SINGH**
> Defence Minister

Tej Pratap Yadav's security stepped up

Janshakti Janata Dal chief Tej Pratap Yadav has had his security increased after an alleged threat to his life. He said there are people trying to get him killed. "My security has been increased because there is a threat to my life. There are many enemies who are working (to get me killed)," he said. ANI

> I can say with certainty that the *Mahagatbandhan* is going to form govt. But, you must prevent BJP from vote theft. Be on guard at polling stations
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

Turning tides: Dipankar Bhattacharya addresses a press conference, in Patna, on Sunday. PTI

NDA's tally will fall below 100 in Bihar, says CPI(ML) leader

Press Trust of India
PATNA

CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya asserted on Sunday that the ruling alliance's seat count will "fall below 100" in the 243-member Bihar Assembly. He based this on strong anti-incumbency reflected in the high turnout during the first phase of the Bihar polls.

The leader expressed shock over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's use of words such as *katta* (country-made firearm) during the election campaign, calling it the "language of the underworld."

"The high voter turnout in the first phase highlights significant anti-incumbency among voters. This, in my view, ensures that the NDA will be reduced to below 100 seats, and the INDIA bloc will win 140-150 seats in the Bihar polls," Mr. Bhattacharya told presspersons.

Bihar recorded the highest-ever voter turnout of over 65% during polling across 121 Assembly seats in the first phase on November 6.

"I am shocked to hear the Prime Minister using 'underworld' language, including words like *katta*. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has been invoking the bulldozer at election rallies to spread fear," the leader claimed.

Voter fraud

Supporting Congress leaders' allegations of vote *chori*, Mr. Bhattacharya said the people of Bihar are "aware of this" and "actively took a stand against these attempts in the first phase of the Assembly election".

"Three types of vote *chori* (vote theft) are going on: deletion of names from electoral rolls; preventing people from casting their ballots, and fake voting," he alleged.

Mr. Bhattacharya criticised the NDA leaders for dubbing Tejashwi Yadav's promise of "one government job per household" impossible.

"It may take some time to provide one government job in each household, but it is not appropriate to discard the promise as impossible. Those who don't want to provide jobs will keep making excuses," the leader said.

'Reservation rights'

He lauded Mr. Yadav for introducing the unemployment problem as a strong issue in the polls. "The NDA was forced to promise one crore jobs." He also justified Mr. Yadav's promise of increasing the quota limit to 65%, saying, "reservation is the right of the people of Bihar and it must be ensured."

On Congress leaders' allegations that the ruling NDA in Bihar is attempting to destroy "files on corruption," Mr. Bhattacharya said, "These are serious accusations... Even former Union Minister R. K. Singh has levelled charges of corruption against the Nitish government." The CPI (ML) leader claimed that there is a sense of "resentment among many women voters who did not receive the benefits of the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana'." Mr. Bhattacharya said that women in Bihar are "raising a slogan 10 *hazaar me dum nahi, karz maafi se kam nahi* (₹10,000 makes little difference, we need nothing less than waiving of our existing loans)".

On the BJP's *ghuspaithiya* claims, he said, "Infiltration has become such a flexible issue that wherever there are elections, infiltrators can be found on duty," claiming that "the BJP is trying to spread fear among people." "It is the responsibility of the government to stop it," he added.

In Dhamdaha, the electoral contest turns into test of loyalty and betrayal

Dhamdaha Assembly constituency in Purnia sees a keen contest between JD(U)'s five-term MLA Lesi Singh and former party MP Santosh Kushwaha, now with the RJD; while both enjoy strong support, Singh is seen as a more accessible, grassroots politician, widely respected for her local connect

IN FOCUS

Amit Bhelari
DHAMDAHA

The election in Dhamdaha, one of the seven Assembly constituencies in Purnia district of Seemanchal region, is one of the keenly watched contests in the Bihar polls.

Santosh Kushwaha, who quit the ruling Janata Dal (United) to join the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) weeks before the election, is contesting from the constituency against Lesi Singh, the JD(U) candidate and Minister in the Cabinet of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Kushwaha, who was then an MP, contested from Purnia on JD (U) ticket and lost to Independent candidate Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav.

A few days ago, while campaigning, Mr. Kushwaha was found riding pillion with Pappu Yadav on a motorbike during the Jan Samvad Yatra – once a rival, now a friend.

Once very close to the Bihar Chief Minister, Mr. Kushwaha served in the party for more than a decade and left no stone unturned to give a tough fight to Ms. Lesi Singh, who is a strong JD(U) leader and five-term MLA from Dhamdaha. In 2020, she defeated RJD candidate Dilip Kumar Yadav.

Tough fight ahead

Umesh Choudhary, a voter in Kajha panchayat in Dhamdaha, said that both are popular leaders in their own capacity and people have seen their work.

"It is a very tough decision to choose between the two because we have seen Santosh *ji* for 10 years and we have also seen Lesi *ji* for the past 20 years. In the Lok Sabha election, he was defeated because people were fed up with him," Mr. Choudhary said.

Located 35 km from Purnia town, the Dhamdaha constituency has a mixed population. According to residents, caste does not decide the fate of a candidate; rather, their image does.

It is evident from the fact that despite Muslims and Yadavs making up about 30% of the population in the constituency, the RJD could win this seat just once, in 2005.

"People in our constituency do not vote on the basis of caste. What is more important is their public image and the good work they have done in the past. The JD(U) candidate is a Rajput, while the RJD candidate is a Koeri. Despite the low number of upper caste people in the constituency, she [Ms. Singh of JD(U)] continues to win the seat for many terms now," Mrinal Paswan, a resident of Dhanhara village under Gokulpur panchayat, said.

Shifting grounds: RJD candidate Santosh Kushwaha, along with Purnia MP Pappu Yadav, during the campaign in the Dhamdaha Assembly constituency. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dhamdaha has over 16% Scheduled Caste voters and nearly 8% Scheduled Tribe voters.

People's perception

There is a perception among voters that Mr. Kushwaha is not easily available and seldom visited the constituency when he was the MP. Ms. Singh is seen as a grassroots-level leader who makes frequent visits to her Assembly constituency.

"Gave ten thousand rupees; gave free electricity; increased pension; [we] will sing the praises of the one who has fed us," said Manju Devi, a resident of Rangpura village.

Ms. Singh, a 51-year-old leader and currently the Food and Consumer Protection Minister, is probably contesting her toughest battle against her former colleague.

She was seeking votes, highlighting the work done by the Nitish Kumar government. She asserted that Mr. Kumar has done a lot of development work, with special focus on women's empowerment.

She also claimed that Mr. Kushwaha was nowhere in the race and he had betrayed Mr. Kumar by joining hands with the RJD.

"There is anger among the people against my opponent. The party gave him a Lok Sabha ticket for the third time, but he became opportunistic and betrayed the party and leadership for personal interests," Ms. Singh told *The Hindu*.

She further said, "This is not the first time he has done this; for the fourth time, he has changed parties. Once again, people will vote for development."

'People want a change'

Mr. Kushwaha, 50, started his political journey from the BJP in 2010, later joined the United Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), and in 2013, he joined the JD(U).

In the constituency, he is speaking the language of his new leader, Tejashwi Yadav, that people are willing for a change not only in Dhamdaha but in the entire Bihar.

He also levelled charges of corruption against the sitting MLA.

"The voters of Dhamdaha are like god, and they have made it clear that change will come to Dhamdaha; a great transformation will happen. The poor, the deprived, the backward, the minorities – the entire community – will unite to ensure the victory of the lantern symbol and make Tejashwi Yadav *ji* as the Chief Minister of Bihar," Mr. Kushwaha said in one of his public meetings.

The Jan Suraaj Party's (JSP) Rakesh Yadav, a former councillor, is also in the fray, appealing to people to vote for a change.

Similarly, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) candidate Mohammad Istiyaque Alam is banking on the Muslim voters and the popularity of his party's head, Asaduddin Owaisi.

Now silent on Bihar, EC had halted two welfare schemes in T.N. during polls

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Election Commission's silence on the payment of ₹10,000 each to women beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana (MMRY) in Bihar, where the Assembly election is in progress, marks a stark contrast to the position taken by the Commission in Tamil Nadu in the past under similar circumstances.

Aimed at covering 75 lakh women, the MMRY, a State-funded assistance scheme, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 26. Ten days later, on October 6, the poll body announced its decision to conduct the election in two phases – November 6 and 11 – for the 243 Assembly constituencies in the State.

Leaders of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress have protested against the implementation of the scheme, which, according to them, goes against the Model Code of Conduct.

In Tamil Nadu, on two occasions in the past 20-odd years, the poll authorities have come down heavily on the implementation of two welfare schemes – one for farmers, and another for beneficiaries of the free colour television (TV) sets distribution initiative.

In March 2011, the EC directed the District Collectors to stop the distribution of TV sets in Tamil Nadu till end of polls. FILE PHOTO

Aimed at covering 75 lakh women, the MMRY was launched by Prime Minister on September 26

In March 2003, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) regime, headed by Jayalalithaa, decided to withdraw the free power supply scheme for farmers and huts. It chose to adopt a cash support scheme for 9.4 lakh small and marginal farmers under which those running pump sets of three-horsepower capacity will be paid ₹500 each twice a year, and those with pumps of 5hp and more, ₹625 twice a year, apart from ₹100 per annum to each hut dweller. All consumers were required to pay the power bills, and those eligible among them would be reimbursed in two installments, in October and April, through postal money orders.

Subsequently, the cash support scheme was extended to the rest of the farmers, and an order was issued prior to the announcement of the poll schedule, according to a news report published by *The Hindu* on May 6, 2004, quoting veteran farmer leader M.R. Sivasamy, as having said.

However, on March 22, 2004, the then Chief Electoral Officer, Mrutyunjay Sarangi, responding to a District Collector's clarification, sent a circular, advising all the Collectors to put off the disbursement of money orders till the completion of the election process.

In early March 2011, immediately after the poll body released its timetable for the Assembly election, it had directed the District Collectors to stop the distribution of free colour TV sets till the end of the polls. This was despite the then DMK government's favourite project – the colour TV scheme – being in force since September 2006.

Before the Model Code of Conduct came into force, around 1.62 crore sets were distributed, with about 9 lakh more sets to be given.

Though the two schemes were under implementation well before the announcement of the poll schedule, the poll panel halted them.

Congress says NDA 'conceding defeat' in Bihar Assembly polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pawan Khera

Senior Congress leaders on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the ruling BJP-JD(U) alliance in Bihar, alleging that the NDA has already "conceded defeat" in the ongoing Assembly elections and accusing it of large-scale corruption and administrative negligence over the past two decades.

Addressing presspersons in Patna, Congress leader Pawan Khera claimed that following the high voter turnout in the first phase and growing public support for the Opposition INDIA bloc ahead of the final phase on November 11, NDA leaders have begun vacating their official residences. "Sensing defeat, officials under NDA leaders are shifting important files," he alleged, warning that it would not be surprising if fires broke out at locations where these files are stored.

Meanwhile, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh accused the BJP-JD(U) government of "looting" Bihar through corruption and mismanagement. In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh cited the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) 2025 report, alleging that the Bihar government spent ₹70,877.61 crore without submitting 49,649 utilisation certificates, leaving no evidence of how the funds were used.

He claimed that funds meant for Dalits, backward communities, farmers, health, education, and social welfare were either misused or left unspent.

Mr. Ramesh said crucial schemes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the mid-day meal programme saw more than half their funds unspent, directly impacting children's education and nutrition. "Out of every 100 rupees approved for children's education, the government did not spend about 50 rupees," he said.

INBRIEF

After five years, China Eastern resumes Shanghai-Delhi flight

China Eastern Airlines started its Shanghai-Delhi service on Sunday with a 95% occupancy, becoming the first mainland Chinese carrier this year to resume direct flights to India after a gap of five years. Flight MU563, carrying 248 passengers, departed from Shanghai Pudong International Airport for Delhi, the state-run *Global Times* reported. Indian airline IndiGo will begin its daily Delhi-Guangzhou service from November 10. The Shanghai-Delhi route is considered a key corridor linking two major economic centres and is expected to boost exchanges in trade, economy and culture, the report said. PTI

Girl abducted from rail shed, sexually assaulted in Bengal

A four-year-old girl was allegedly abducted from a railway shed and sexually assaulted at Tarakeshwar in West Bengal's Hooghly district, officials said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday when the child was asleep beside her grandmother at the railway shed, they said. The minor was found with injury marks near a drain in the area on Saturday afternoon, an official said. The girl was initially taken to a local hospital and later referred to the Chandannagar sub-divisional hospital. A police officer said one person has been detained and is being interrogated. A case has been registered under the POCSO Act, said the official. PTI

Question paper mix-up hits Manipur civil services exam

The Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) on Sunday cancelled two question papers after a mix-up during the Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination 2022. Candidates at two centres – Imphal and Guwahati – were left confused when they received the General Studies-IV question paper instead of General Studies-III. The MPSC cancelled the two papers as soon as the goof-up was detected. The commission said the new dates for the General Studies papers would be finalised soon. The Thadou Students' Association condemned the MPSC for its "gross negligence" in conducting the Mains examination.

15-year-old girl gang-raped in Madhya Pradesh; three held

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped after being dragged inside a government school by two men and a minor boy in Mauganj district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Sunday. The accused have been arrested, they added. According to the police, the rape took place around 8 p.m. on Friday in a village under the Laur police station area. The three accused forced her into the compound of a primary school and abandoned the girl in an unconscious state. Her mother found the girl after searching for some time. A complaint was filed by the mother after learning about the incident. The police arrested the three perpetrators.

Aditya-L1 gets a close look at eruptions from the sun

Scientists from IIA and NASA study very first spectroscopic observations of coronal mass ejection in the visible wavelength range; the solar observatory is expected to observe more such eruptions

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Using the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload aboard India's first dedicated space-based solar mission, Aditya-L1, scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), along with NASA, have collaborated to estimate the crucial parameters of a coronal mass ejection (CME), very close to its lift-off from the sun.

Scientists associated with the project said that these are the very first spectroscopic observations of a CME in the visible wavelength range.

They said that the unique spectroscopic observations with the VELC has let them study the CMEs very close to the sun's visible surface itself, for the first time.

"In addition, it provides a sustained view of the sun for 24 hours every day because of being at the sun-earth Lagrangian L1 location where the sun never sets," they said.

Taking advantage of these factors, V. Muthupriyal, VELC project scientist, and her colleagues at the VELC payload operations centre at the IIA estimated the electron density, energy, mass, temperature and speed of a CME very close to the sun.

Solar study: PSLV-C57, carrying India's maiden solar mission Aditya-L1, lifts off from Sriharikota on September 2, 2023. PTI

Vital statistics

R. Ramesh, senior Professor at the IIA and principal investigator of the VELC project, told *The Hindu* that the observations are by far the closest to the sun where spectroscopic observations of a CME in the visible wavelength range have been obtained with a space coronagraph.

His team calculated that there are about 370 million electrons per cubic centimetre in the CME observed with the VELC. The corresponding number for the non-CME corona near the sun is much less, in the range 10-100 million electrons per cubic centimetre.

"The CME energy in the present case is approximately 9.4 * 10^21 joules. The mass in the CME is nearly 270 million tons. For comparison, the mass of the iceberg that sank the Titanic is estimated to be 1.5 million tons. The initial speed of the CME is 264 km/sec. The CME temperature is 1.8 million degrees on the Kelvin scale," Professor Ramesh said.

More eruptions

He added that though there are observations of CMEs at comparatively larger distances from the sun, with instruments other than the VELC, an understanding of the parameters of a CME in relation to how much is lost from the sun during a CME *per se* is crucial, and the unique near-sun spectroscopic observations with the VELC is precisely providing us the necessary data.

Professor Ramesh added that with the sun nearing the maximum activity phase of the current sunspot cycle 25 and with the VELC now stabilised in its operations, more energetic eruptions from the sun are expected to be observed.

Transparency must in issues of religious oppression: SC judge

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kumar has observed that the state must show obvious transparency and fairness while dealing with issues involving religious oppression and secularism.

"India has developed its own interpretation of secularism, wherein the state neither supports any religion nor penalises the profession and practice of any faith. This being the ideal, the state machinery must tailor its actions accordingly but the inescapable fact remains that such state machinery ultimately comprises members of different religions and communities. Therefore, transparency and fairness in their actions must be manifest in matters even remotely touching upon secularism and religious oppression," Justice Kumar wrote in a recent order.

Justice Kumar's remarks came in his separate opinion rejecting a plea by the Maharashtra government to review a September 2025 judgment of the Supreme Court.

The judgment had directed the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), comprising equal parts Muslim and Hindu police officers, to investigate allegations of murder and assault made by a 17-year-old Muslim boy against the backdrop of the Akola riots of 2023.

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, the second judge on the Bench, agreed with the State government, and concluded that the judgment required a re-look, thus rendering a split opinion on the review petition.

The case concerned a complaint made by a teenager, Mohammad Afzal Mohammad Sharif, who allegedly witnessed four men attacking a man in an autorickshaw during riots in May 2023.

The men assaulted the boy, leaving him with head injuries. But Afzal mustered the courage to go to the police station to file a complaint about the murder and the assault on him. However, the police had taken no notice of him.

The murder victim was later identified as Vilas Mahadevrao Gaikwad, who had been plying the autorickshaw owned by a Muslim. Afzal had stated that Gaikwad was killed under the mistaken impression that he was a Muslim.

Assam Bill proposes 7-year jail term for polygamy

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that the State Cabinet has approved a Bill to ban polygamy, for which convicts may face up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment.

However, there may be some exceptions for the Sixth Schedule areas.

Addressing a press conference after a Cabinet meeting here, Mr. Sarma said the government will also create a new fund to compensate the victims of polygamy so that they do not face hardship in continuing with their lives.

"The Assam Cabinet today approved a Bill to ban polygamy. The Bill will be called 'The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025'. It will be tabled in the Assembly on November 25," he added.

Climate change, imbalance in fertilizer use impacts soil's organic carbon: ICAR study

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

A detailed study conducted by eight scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), including its Director-General, Mangi Lal Jat, has found that the unscientific use of fertilizers and climate change are contributing to degradation of organic carbon in arable areas of the country.

The study, primarily coordinated by the ICAR's Indian Institute of Soil Science in Bhopal, has used 2,54,236 soil samples from 620 districts covering 29 States to reach the conclusions. A research paper based on the six-year study started in 2017 has been published now in the England-based international research journal *Land Degradation & Development*.

Talking to *The Hindu* about the research, coordinator of the project Arvind K. Shukla said organic carbon was not only part of the chemistry of the soil, but it covered all the aspects of the physics, chemistry and biology of soil. He said a study published by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation about 25 years ago flagged this issue, but the samples were very low.

Land development: The study has used 254,236 soil samples of 620 districts covering 29 States to reach the conclusions. FILE PHOTO

"In this study, we have taken samples extensively, and the sample collection was well designed. We have covered both arable and barren land, mostly arable land," he said.

Carbon dynamics

The study has found that if the organic carbon is low, then the deficiency of micronutrients in the soil is high, and if the organic carbon is high, the deficiency is low. The team used an earlier study that said rainfall and temperature determined organic carbon. "We correlated this across the country. We found that organic carbon is highly correlated with the elevation. If the elevation of the land is high, then the organic carbon content is high. But if we move from hills to low land, then the organic carbon content is low," he added.

Mr. Shukla said organic soil carbon is negatively correlated with temperature. "For example, in Rajasthan and Telangana, the temperature is very high and their organic carbon content is low," he added.

The study noted that irrespective of the crops and cropping patterns, temperature, rainfall and elevation are the three important factors which decide the organic carbon concentration in the soil. The team of scientists developed an 'agri-ecological base' map to assess the impact of cropping systems and the use of fertilizers on organic carbon.

The scientists have prepared a map which can help in making policy decisions, particularly for the carbon credit and assessing the land degradation. "We found that wherever imbalanced fertilizer application was there, then the organic carbon contained in the soil had declined. Haryana, Punjab, and parts of western Uttar Pradesh have intensified the fertilizer application, skewed towards urea and phosphorus, which was mostly scientific application, and it has negatively impacted organic carbon in the soil," the scientist added.

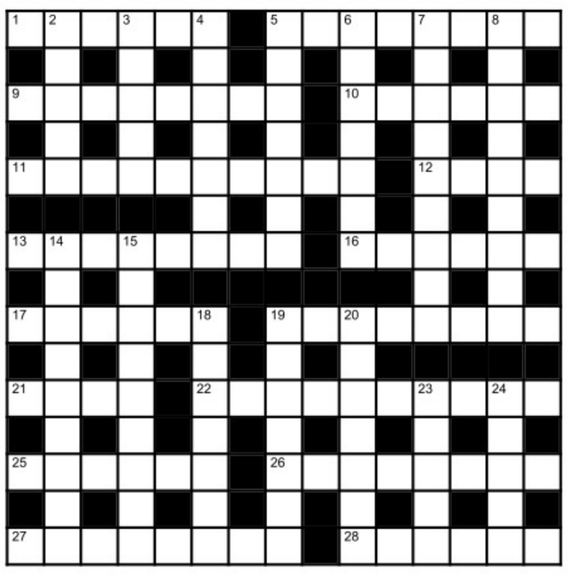
The study noted that climate change also has an impact on organic carbon. "If the temperature is rising, then there are chances that soil organic carbon will decline further in future, and that will not only impact soil health, but will also impact the carbon credit and heat emission from soil." Mr. Shukla said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14635

(set by Pixie Dust)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Abet an assault? (4,2)
5 Performed without a couple of fellows, basically entitled and pompous (8)
9 Curiously never heard this sound mixer? Ha! (8)
10 About fifty one extremely curious artefacts (6)
11 Short of cash and worried about tuition expenses mainly (10)
12 Start cycling? Forget it! (4)
13 Be wrong about Auditor's girl Judith - extremely gullible (8)
16 Some gold-digger manipulates person from Wolfsburg (6)
17 Women and young men from Scotland ignoring date (6)
19 As per Spooner, legendary murderer with ordinary Mac! (8)
21 Took mob regularly to mausoleum (4)
22 I do rant about being repeatedly employed in a religious ceremony? (10)
25 Stab every one after killing guards in public house (6)
26 Esoteric doctrine is somehow balsamic (8)
27 Fish box loses lid to reel awkwardly (8)
28 Display old model (6)

Down

2 Found in seventeenth episode (5)
3 Greek character at the building (5)
4 Gathered son left contented around 3rd of October (7)
5 Depression's controlled by beer and pasta (firm to the bite) (2,5)
6 Confusion about one blood-coloured decorative metal support (7)
7 Something related to time measurement and circle perhaps (9)
8 Doctor can help European and American with brains (9)
14 From the onset Ivana noticed Adam Marsh openly riling and tormenting Albert's mistress (9)
15 Bail a jerk out resulting in a shortened sentence? (9)
18 Beginning to secretly trap a contemptuous person (7)
19 Will a CID arrive to capture revolutionary militant (7)
20 Endlessly low being, perhaps (7)
23 In France you have margin for bloomer (5)
24 Shelter love warts and all! (5)

SUDOKU

			9	2	8	3		
		8	3					1
3		9			6			
8		3	4			1		
4								3
		2			1	6		4
			1			7		2
1					3	5		
		7	2	9	4			

No.SS6696 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

D	E	S	I	S	T	L	A	T
I	■	T	■	C	■	■	G	O
S	E	E	T	H	E	■	F	R
C	■	P	■	O	■	H	■	A
O	L	D	W	O	M	A	N	■
U	■	O	■	L	■	C	■	F
N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	T	I
T	■	N	■	F	■	N	■	G
■	■	■	S	T	E	E	P	L
P	■	C	■	H	■	Y	■	E
R	E	A	S	O	N	■	M	A
O	■	L	■	U	■	D	■	F
P	O	L	Y	G	L	O	T	■
E	■	I	■	H	■	N	■	■
L	E	N	G	T	H	E	N	■

C	H	E	C	K	E	Y		
■	G	O	■	I	■	A		
F	R	O	N	T	M	A	N	
A	■	F	■	O	■	K		
■	S	I	G	N	E	E		
D	■	D	■	O	■	D		
T	I	M	E	S	■	■		
N	■	G	■	N	■	F	■	R
E	C	H	A	S	E	■		
E	■	N	■	I	■	■		
M	A	S	T	O	D	O	N	
R	■	A	■	V	■	■		
F	I	A	N	C	E	■		
C	■	G	■	N	■	■		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	4	8	9	5	2	6	7
2	7	6	4	1	3	9	5	8
5	9	8	6	2	7	1	3	4
7	6	9	5	4	1	3	8	2
1	4	5	2	3	8	7	9	6
8	3	2	9	7	6	5	4	1
6	2	3	7	5	4	8	1	9
4	5	7	1	8	9	6	2	3
9	8	1	3	6	2	4	7	5

FAITH

Vishnu at Tiruvallikeni

Whenever the need arises for Maha Vishnu to incarnate on this earth to protect mankind, He is invariably accompanied by Mahalakshmi who also appears in different human forms. Vedavalli Thayar of Thiruvallikeni Temple preceded Perumal in reaching the abode, observed Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Tiruallikeni, so named after the pond rich with alli flowers, was where Bhrigu, the sage, had established his ashram. One day, he was delighted to find a baby girl under a sandal wood tree and asked his wife to tend to her and bring her up as their own daughter. She was named Vedavalli, a personification of Vedas themselves. The baby was none other than Mahalakshmi, who had descended to the earth on the pretext of a small dispute with the Lord.

When the baby grew up and reached marriageable age, Maha Vishnu decided to reunite with Her and came down as a glorious prince. When Bhrigu saw him, he was overwhelmed by emotion. Vishnu transformed into his glorious state, offering darshan with the conch, disc and sword. The saint did not fail to notice Mahalakshmi missing from His chest. When he enquired, the Lord revealed that his daughter Vedavalli was none other than Mahalakshmi and requested Bhrigu for Her hand in marriage. He also made it a precondition for Him to stay in Bhrigu's ashram. Bhrigu responded saying that his daughter had to consent to the proposal, which She did, realising that the suitor was none other than Perumal Himself. When all is agreed, Maha Vishnu assumed the reclining posture and remains today as the main deity of the temple that has risen in the place where the events unfolded.

ISABELA

Two dead as Super Typhoon Fung-wong lashes Philippines

AP

At least two persons were killed as Super Typhoon Fung-wong battered the Philippines with heavy rain and winds, cutting power and forcing over a million to evacuate. Authorities closed airports, deployed troops for rescue efforts, and urged residents in Luzon to heed evacuation orders amid widespread flooding. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR

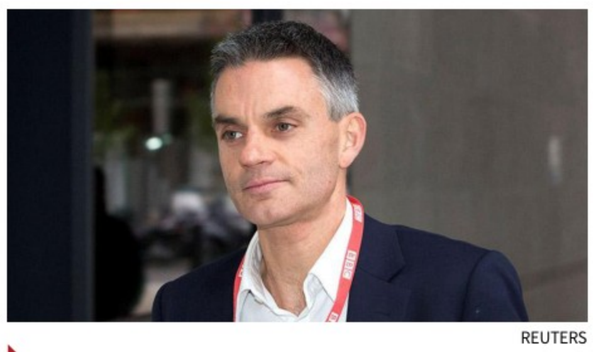
Hundreds missing as migrant boat sinks off Malaysia-Thailand border

REUTERS

Hundreds were missing on Sunday after a boat carrying about 300 people from Myanmar sank near the Thailand-Malaysia border. Ten survivors and one body have been found as search efforts continue. Authorities said the Rohingya and other migrants boarded a large vessel and later moved to smaller boats to evade detection. REUTERS

LONDON

Tim Davie resigns from BBC over Trump documentary edit criticism



REUTERS

The Director-General of Britain's BBC, Tim Davie, has resigned following criticism that a BBC documentary misled viewers by editing a speech by U.S. President Donald Trump. "This is entirely my decision, and I remain very thankful to the Chair and Board for their unswerving and unanimous support," Mr. Davie said. REUTERS

LONDON

U.K. sends defence equipment to help Belgium deal with drones

REUTERS

Britain is sending experts and equipment to Belgium to help it combat disruptive drone sightings, which have temporarily closed airports, the head of the British military said on Sunday. Richard Knighton, head of Britain's armed forces, told the BBC that his Belgian counterpart had asked for assistance. REUTERS

Al-Sharaa lands in U.S. on maiden visit, to meet Trump on Monday

This is the first official visit by a Syrian leader to U.S. since 1946; Sharaa was removed from Washington's terrorism blacklist a day before; delisting was based on Syria's cooperation in eliminating chemical weapons, showing progress toward stability

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, arrived in the United States on Saturday for a landmark official visit, his country's state news agency reported, a day after Washington removed him from a terrorism blacklist.

Mr. Sharaa, whose rebel forces ousted long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad late last year, is due to meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

It is the first such visit by a Syrian President since the country's independence in 1946, according to analysts.

Historic visit: Ahmed al-Sharaa meets with representatives of Syrian American organisations in Washington on Saturday. AP

The interim leader met Mr. Trump for the first time in Riyadh during the U.S. President's regional tour in May.

Washington's envoy to Syria, Tom Barrack, said earlier this month that Mr. Sharaa would "hopefully" sign an agreement to join the international U.S.-led alliance against the Islamic State (IS) group.

The United States plans to establish a military base near Damascus "to coordinate humanitarian aid and observe developments between Syria and Israel," a diplomatic source in Syria said.

The State Department's decision on Friday to remove Mr. Sharaa from the blacklist was widely expected.

State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said Mr. Sharaa's government had been meeting U.S. demands including on working to find missing Americans and on eliminating any remaining chemical weapons.

"These actions are being taken in recognition of the progress demonstrated by the Syrian leadership after the departure of Bashar al-Assad," Mr. Pigott said.

The spokesperson added that the U.S. delisting would promote "regional security and stability as well as an inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process."

Since taking power, Syria's new leaders have sought to break from their violent past and present a moderate image more tolerable to ordinary Syrians and foreign powers.

Pak. parliamentary panel passes 27th amendment

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's joint parliamentary committee of the Senate and National Assembly on Sunday approved the 27th constitutional amendment Bill with the Opposition alleging that the government was sounding "the death knell for the Supreme Court".

The amendment proposes a change in Article 243, seeking to abolish the 'Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee' and introduce a new 'Chief of Defence Forces'.

Other proposals under the same amendment include establishing a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) and reducing the powers of the Supreme Court.

Farooq Naek

Senator Farooq Naek of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), who chaired the meeting of the joint parliamentary committee, told presspersons after it was over that "the meeting unanimously approved the basic draft of the Bill."

After the Senate, it would be presented before the National Assembly, where it must pass a two-thirds majority again.

In the final stage, it must get the President's approval to become a law.

Meanwhile, the new amendment came under severe criticism in the Senate session earlier in the day, when Opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Senator Ali Zafar said that the proposed constitutional amendment would "sound the death knell for the Supreme Court".

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP), a multi-party Opposition alliance, had announced a nationwide protest movement against the amendment.

Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that the nationwide movement would begin on Sunday.

However, by evening, no protests were held anywhere in the country.

Fighters in Rafah will not surrender: Hamas

Reuters
GAZA

Hamas fighters holed up in the Israeli-held Rafah area of Gaza will not surrender to Israel, the group's armed wing said on Sunday, urging mediators to find a solution to a crisis that threatens the month-old ceasefire. Sources close to mediation efforts said on Thursday that fighters could surrender their arms in exchange for passage to other areas of the enclave under a proposal aimed at resolving the stalemate.

Meanwhile, Israel on Sunday said it received the remains of a hostage in Gaza that Hamas says is the body of an Israeli soldier who was killed in 2014 and has been held in Gaza for the past 11 years. Hamas said that it found the body of the soldier, Hadar Goldin, in a tunnel in Rafah.

Junta demolishes 150 scam hub buildings

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Myanmar's military said on Sunday it was demolishing nearly 150 buildings in a crackdown on a notorious Internet scam compound bordering Thailand.

Sprawling fraud factories have boomed in war-torn Myanmar's loosely governed border regions, housing workers targeting unsuspecting Internet users with romance and business cons worth tens of billions of dollars annually.

Many workers are trafficked into the internet sweatshops, but others go willingly to the compounds which are often furnished with luxury amenities for criminal bosses and their high-earning staff.

Experts say the junta searches are likely limited, choreographed and intentionally publicised.

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Bhutan eyes role of global spiritual peacemaker, holds prayer festival

Rahul Karmakar
THIMPHU

Bhutan, an island of tranquillity in a troubled neighbourhood, is eyeing the role of a global spiritual peacemaker in a world torn by conflicts, polarisation, and discord.

The Himalayan country's Central Monastic Body said Bhutan tested the waters by bringing together religious leaders, scholars, and thinkers from three main branches of Buddhism – Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana – for the first-ever Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF), being held in Thimphu from November 4 to 19.

The "overwhelming response" from Buddhists within and beyond the country has prompted Bhutan to plan the GPPF as an annual event on a larger scale, involving top practitioners of all or most mainstream and indigenous religions on Earth.

"His Majesty, the King of Bhutan, conceived the GPPF as a global platform for transformative spiritualism toward co-creating a future rooted in peace and happiness. Our success in bringing leaders from all branches of Buddhism is a step in the right direction," Chorten Dorji, the Secretary of the Central Monastic Body, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Crucial role: The concurrence of interfaith leaders is necessary for lasting peace anywhere, says Chorten Dorji. RUTAJEET KARMAKAR

The Bhutanese government's confidence in undertaking the event on a grand scale stemmed from similar festivals held annually across the country's 20 *dzongkhags* (districts) to pray for world peace and the healing of humanity.

The GPPF has attracted lamas and other representatives from the Mahayana branch in China, Singapore, and Taiwan; from the Theravada branch in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand; and from the Vajrayana branch in Bhutan, India, and the Tibetan region.

"We see the response as an encouragement to organise GPPF annually by inviting the participation of priests, spiritual leaders, and scholars from all religions. The concurrence of interfaith leaders, who play a major role in society, is necessary for lasting peace anywhere," Mr. Dorji said.

The GPPF organisers made this intention clear by creating a window for Hindu priests and spiritual leaders from India to hold a mass recitation event on November 7.

The Central Monastic Body appreciated the help from the Government of India "in cash and kind" to organise the GPPF and transport Lord Buddha's relics from the National Museum in New Delhi to the Grand Kuenray hall in Thimphu for public veneration from November 12 to 18. "The cooperation we have received from India has cemented the bond between our two countries. And the upcoming visit of India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has made the festival more globally significant," Mr. Dorji said.

(The correspondent is in Thimphu on the invitation of Bhutan government)

TPA tangle in health insurance

K. Nitya Kalyani

Among the many moving parts of a hospitalisation insurance policy is a key intermediary – the Third Party Administrator (Health Services) or TPA. They handle claims management on behalf of insurers. Earlier, the work was done by the claims departments of insurers, well-versed in the specific requirements of fire, marine, health or motor insurance. The practice of outsourcing health claims emerged when the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA, as was known then) issued regulations in 2001 allowing TPAs to operate.

Serve as bridge

The TPAs were meant to serve as a bridge between insurers, hospitals and policyholders – helping insureds with documentation, claims processing under the insurers' rules, and settling hospital bills directly under the "cashless" system to ensure the insured didn't have to pay upfront and await reimbursement.

Early troubles

In the beginning, TPAs took time to come to grips with both insurance and healthcare processes. Customers complained of arbitrary claim cuts or outright rejections. Then came the 'float' issue: insurers advanced funds to TPAs for approved claims, but some TPAs delayed payments to hospitals to earn interest on the idle funds. This led to disputes and tighter regulation. Meanwhile, hospitals realised the insurance system – despite paperwork – brought in paying clients. Even government hospitals began to prefer insured patients as a source of income rather than offering free service.

Cashless crunch

As medical costs soared, insurers created closed networks of hospitals with negotiated package rates to contain pricing discrepancies. But this often left the policyholder stranded – hospitals charged one rate, insurers reimbursed another, and the patient quietly bore the difference.

Eventually, hospitals began protesting too, citing delays in updating tariff agreements and in receiving claim payments from TPAs. Many took to demanding full advance payment from patients to be reimbursed when the insurer/TPA pays out the claim, subverting the very concept of cashless treatment!

In recent months tensions have escalated, with insurers and hospitals blacklisting each other and patients caught helplessly in between. As it is, hospitalisation insurance has been topping the list of general insurance complaints before the Insurance Ombudsmen for decades now.

What needs fixing

India's healthcare operates in a liberalised, market-driven environment. But the absence of price discipline and uniformity is hurting all. A measure of standardisation in hospital tariffs, albeit factoring in differences in facilities and location, is essential. Market segmentation is fine; unregulated pricing is not.

Focus on public hospitals

Expanding and upgrading the network of public, community and charitable hospitals can ease the burden on both private healthcare and the customer's wallet. Quality must be benchmarked, monitored and rewarded. NABH's system of accreditation has created a base level quality for hospitals. A similar grading system for TPAs – importantly incorporating customer ratings – would introduce much-needed transparency and accountability. Come to think of it, independent customer ratings for hospitals on a range of factors from pricing to standards to service quality would be very useful too. Ultimately, while the insurer - TPA relationship may be contractual, the real test is service to the insured. The client, after all, is not just a policyholder but the patient.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Beyond visual range: Time, managed wisely, compounds in multiple ways money cannot. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

What if the richest wealth isn't money at all?

A time billionaire flips the equation; he treats every hour as an asset and strategically invests in high-value skills, financial literacy or launching ventures that create immense wealth

TIME IS MONEY

Vaishali R. Venkat

Money is not always wise. Let's pause talking about it for a moment. Are you a college graduate with zero net worth? Haven't built a business empire and don't own any luxury possessions? Don't worry. You are still wealthier than a 65-year-old business magnate with a private jet in one crucial aspect: TIME.

Time billionaire

A healthy teen has roughly 60-70 years of life ahead, equating to nearly 3,00,000 to 3,50,000 wakeful hours to learn, experiment, create and build. He might not have wealth deposited in a bank, but he is time-rich with more hours in his life. In contrast, a 65-year-old, who generated huge financial resources, is not rich enough in terms of time. Time, and probably health, might not be on his side to pivot, explore new ventures or recover from shocks/failures. Time is compounding. The more you have of it , the more power you gain over learning, skill-building, growth and life choices.

> Time is compounding. The more you have of it, the more power you gain over learning, skill-building, growth and life choices

Invisible currency

In his best-selling book Outliers – The Story of Success, Malcolm Gladwell suggested mastering any skill needs almost 10,000 hours of deliberate practice. By investing just four hours every day in learning high-value skills, a 20-year-old graduate accumulates almost 1,460 hours a year. With almost 40 years left until retirement, he has about 58,400 hours ahead.

Applying Mr. Gladwell's 10,000-hour principle to build real expertise, the young graduate has ample time to master five or six skills. Each skill can turn a gateway to new opportunities and career pivots, during career and after retirement.

Time, in this sense, is the invisible currency compounding quietly in the background while most people focus only on compounding money via SIPs, equity or other financial instruments. It is time that compounds into freedom and achievements, if spent wisely.

Time-leaking

Most people are not truly time-poor, but constantly leaking it. Hours quietly vanish on habits such as binge-watching, doom scrolling or social-networking. Even if you waste an hour a day, it adds up to 365 hours/year and over 40 years, it is 14,600 hours, enough to master at least one/two new skills, write a book or build a passive income stream, or transform health and fitness. Time, managed wisely, compounds in multiple ways money cannot. Hence, if you use hours judiciously, you can create wealth no bank account could ever hold. Fortunes can be rebuilt from scratch but lost time is gone forever. Money multiplies, minutes melt.

> Applying Mr. Gladwell's 10,000-hour principle to build real expertise, the young graduate has ample time to master five or six skills

Time: the leveller

Unlike money, which is unevenly distributed, time is the ultimate leveller. Every human, rich or poor, young or old, has the same 24 hours in a day. What differs is awareness and how those hours are spent.

Time-money paradox

Many are of the opinion high-paying jobs automatically makes them wealthy. The reality is often the opposite.

Spending long hours in a routine, high-paying role might boost bank balance but if considerable time is not invested in learning, building skills, or exploring new opportunities, true potential of time and money would be lost. You would fail to compound financial intelligence, entrepreneurial ability or marketable skill, the real skill-sets or assets that can multiply income faster than a salary could.

The irony: people trade their finite hours for money but because work is often mechanical or low-value in terms of learning and long-term growth, they miss the chance to turn each hour into a leveraged asset.

Early-career professionals who focus solely on income generation may end up years later with an impressive resume but limited freedom, knowledge or alternative income streams, leaving them dependent for financial security.

A time billionaire flips this equation. He treats every hour as an asset, strategically investing it in high-value skills, financial literacy or launching ventures. His goal is to use time efficiently, allowing decades of effort and learning to compound into wealth and true financial freedom.

Recognising this paradox empowers you to escape mundane jobs and consciously invest hours where they generate the highest financial leverage.

If you treat TIME as the most valuable asset, then every rupee, decision and opportunity will compound into true wealth. Invest in yourself, master hours, then financial freedom will follow naturally.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Seeking adviser alpha

THINKINVESTOR

Outcome of an investment decision is determined by skill, luck because collective human behaviour drives asset prices, determining if investments have positive or negative returns

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

It is good to get an expert opinion to keep physical and emotional health in good stead. Does this argument extend to financial health too? Here, we discuss when it is optimal to hire an investment advisor and to self-manage your investments.

Advisor Alpha

The best investment advisers can add value to investment decisions. Research in this area has shown the difference in returns between an adviser-managed and a self-managed portfolio can be significant, referred to as adviser alpha. It does not mean you must hire an investment adviser to manage investments. Two factors are relevant here. One, if you decide to invest in passive funds, an investment adviser may not add significant value. This is because your investments are likely to be through systematic investment plans (SIPs) for the time horizon for a life goal.

The appropriate benchmark could be a large-cap index (NSE 100 Index) or a broad-cap index (NSE 500 Index). Selecting an index fund or an ETF on a benchmark does not require much expertise. And two, if you have the time and expertise, are you inclined to manage investments? If not, seeking an investment advisor is optimal.

That said, the outcome of an investment decision is determined by both skill and luck. This is because collective human behaviour drives asset prices, determining whether investments have positive or negative returns or whether they generate more returns than a benchmark index. That means adviser alpha is a function of both skill and luck.

Conclusion

When you hire an adviser, your objective is to seek consistent (adviser) alpha returns. The more consistent the advisor alpha is, the more you can believe the adviser's skill, not luck, drives investment performance. Importantly, ensure you understand how investment portfolio is likely to be managed (advised); it is easy to fault an investment adviser when the performance of investment portfolio does not match expectation. Also, understand an adviser can only determine your risk tolerance level- the level at which losses in the future, if any, can cause emotional and financial pain for you. Your loss tolerance is likely to be lower – your actual threshold level of pain when investment losses materialise. You must be mindful of the difference between your risk tolerance and loss tolerance levels could have a bearing on your asset allocation.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.05-15.05	10,636-11,908	2,127-2,382	NIL till 31st January 2026
ICICI Bank	10.45 onwards	10,735 onwards	2,147 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.10	10,722-12,724	2,144-2,545	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	9.98 onwards	10,619 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	9.90-11.80	10,599-11,072	2,120-2,214	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5% (2% for instant personal loans for limited period)

*Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.60	10,174 - 11,021	Up to Rs. 2,000
Canara Bank	7.70-11.70	10,067 - 11,047	100% waiver till 31.12.2025
Bank of India	7.85-12.15	10,102 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	NIL on all cars & electric vehicle loans
State Bank of India	8.75	10,319	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs. 3,500 - Rs. 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.00-11.69	10,379 - 11,044	Up to 0.60% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.00 onwards	10,624 onwards	Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1,000
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	Up to Rs. 10,000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	No processing fees till 31.03.2026

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan borrowers, existing customers with at least 6 months relationship with bank
**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on November 4 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

UNFORGETTABLE DAY

Akash hits fastest First Class fifty, smashes six sixes in an over

FILE PHOTO: SHAYAN ACHARYA

Meghalaya's Akash Kumar Chaudhary smashed the fastest fifty in First Class cricket and became only the third player in the format's history to hit six sixes in an over. Akash reached his half-century off just 11 balls during the Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh. He also hit six sixes off an over by Limar Dabi.

JUST REWARD

I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard: Shafali

PTI

The last one year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort. When I joined the Indian team ahead of the semifinal, I was determined to contribute to the World Cup victory — Shafali Verma during a grand reception in her hometown Rohtak.

BREAKING THE JINX

Winning start for World No. 2 Alcaraz in the ATP Finals

AP

World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz made a solid start to the ATP Finals in Turin on Sunday with a 7-6(5), 6-2 victory over Alex de Minaur. It is the first time that the Spaniard has won his opening match at the Finals. He had lost to Alexander Zverev and Casper Ruud in the last two years.

SETBACK

Djokovic pulls out of ATP Finals for the second straight year

REUTERS

Novak Djokovic has pulled out of the ATP Finals for the second year in a row, shortly after beating Lorenzo Musetti in a near three-hour final to win the Hellenic Championship in Athens on Saturday. "I'm sad to share that I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury," Djokovic said in a post on social media.

Karthik advances to the fourth round

The Indian GM gets the better of Bogdan-Daniel in the tie-breaker; end of the road for Vidit and Narayanan; Vachier-Lagrave wins a marathon against Artemiev in an exciting contest

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Great going: Karthik drew the first game of the tie-break against his Romanian rival before winning the second with black pieces to seal his spot in the round-of-32. FIDE

It wasn't the best of days for India at the chess World Cup. Of the three men that played the tie-breakers of the third round at Resort Rio, only one could get through.

Karthik Venkataraman did indeed well to move into the fourth round; he took only the first set of tie-breakers to win his match against Bogdan-Daniel Deac of Romania. After drawing the first game, he won the second with black pieces.

Vidit Gujrathi had begun the day well, beating the American Sam Shankland with black pieces in the first game of the first set of tie-breakers.

So the 19th seed from Nashik needed only a draw in the second, and he had white pieces, but he lost to make the score 1-1. In the second set of tie-breakers, the first game was drawn, but in the second, the American, seeded 46th, won.

Before that, S.L. Narayanan had been knocked out by his higher-rated Chinese rival Yu Yangyi. The Kerala player could not recover from his loss in the day's first game, and the second game was drawn. The 17th-seeded Chinese thus won 1.5-0.5. The most exciting match of the day was the one between 11th seed Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France and Vladislav Artemiev of Russia.

Sudden death

It went all the way to sudden death, after the Frenchman won the last game of the tie-breakers. In the sudden death, he had to win, while his rival, with black pieces, only needed a draw.

"It was a great match," said Vachier-Lagrave shortly after his hard-earned victory, for which he had to fight it for more than five-and-a-half hours.

"It took all that I had in me to come back. And it took very long. Vlad is a very resilient player, so am I. But I would gladly have avoided two must-win games."

Karthik said he played well in both the games against Bogdan-Daniel. "I don't know if I was objectively winning at some point in the first game, but I was clearly better in the second," he said.

"I think it was kind of smooth. I got advantage and then I managed, and his main problem was he was getting low on time in both the games."

After a day's rest – the first of the tournament – the fourth round, which has five Indians, will start on Tuesday.

Important results:
Third round (tie-breaks): Wei Yi (Chn) bt Benjamin Gledura (Hun) 1.5-0.5; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave bt Vladislav Artemiev 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-0; Richard Rapport (Hun) bt Yagiz Erogmus 1.5-0.5; Yun Yangyi (Chn) bt S.L. Narayanan 1.5-0.5; Sam Shankland (USA) bt Vidit Gujrathi 1-1, 1.5-0.5; Karthik Venkataraman bt Bogdan-Daniel Deac (Rou) 1.5-0.5; Sevin Samuel (USA) bt Evgeniy Najer (Rus) 2-0; Alexey Sarana (Srb) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned); Daniil Dubov bt Georg Meier (Uru) 1-1, 1.5-0.5.

Man City proves too good for Liverpool

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MANCHESTER

Manchester City crushed Liverpool 3-0 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Important results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Buendia 28, Onana 40, Barkley 77, Malen 82) bt Bournemouth 0; Brentford 3 (Schade 56, Thiago 78-pen, 90+5) bt Newcastle 1 (Barnes 27); Manchester City 3 (Haaland 29, Gonzalez 45+3, Doku 63) bt Liverpool 0. **LaLiga:** Bilbao 1 (Williams 25) bt Oviedo 0; Vallecano 0 drew with Real 0.

On Saturday: Premier League: Chelsea 3 (Gusto 51, Pedro 65, Neto 73) bt Wolves 0; Everton 2 (Gueye 45+4, Keane 81) bt Fulham 0; Sunderland 2 (Ballard 36, Brobbey 90+4) drew with Arsenal 2 (Saka 54, Trossard 74); West Ham 3 (Wilson 44, Soucek 77, Walker-Peters 87) bt Burnley 2 (Flemming 35, Cullen 90+7).

Royals likely to trade Samson for Jadeja

IPL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Samson and Jadeja.
FILE PHOTOS: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR & K. MURALI KUMAR

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) is inching closer to a deal with Rajasthan Royals to secure the services of Sanju Samson.

In exchange, CSK will give up one of its star players Ravindra Jadeja, who started his IPL career at the Royals. Incidentally, both players were retained by their respective franchises ahead of the mega auction last year.

After finishing at the bottom of the standings in the 2025 season, in which they won just four games, the Super Kings are expected to make significant changes to their squad for the following year.

Their main issue was a lack of firepower in its batting unit, and getting Samson is a key piece of the puzzle to solve that issue.

However, it is understood that the Royals have demanded one more player as part of the deal. Though CSK's first preference is a straight swap between the two players, both in the ₹18 crore bracket, the five-time champion has not shut the door on giving up one more player.

Norris wins Sao Paulo GP, extends lead over Piastri

Reuters
SAO PAULO

McLaren's Lando Norris won the Sao Paulo Grand Prix to stretch his Formula One lead to 24 points on Sunday after teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri picked up a penalty for causing a collision and finished fifth.

Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli hung on for a career-best second with Red Bull's Max Verstappen third after starting from the pit lane, another astonishing performance from the four-time World champion.

Australian Piastri, who started fourth at Interlagos with sprint winner Norris on pole, had to serve a 10-second penalty for an early clash with Antonelli that put Ferrari's Charles Leclerc out of the race.

Openers, Hamza help SA-A chase down a mammoth total, level series

INDIA-A VS SA-A

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Spectacular show: Overnight batters Hermann, *in pic.*, and Senokwane provided a solid platform. K. MURALI KUMAR

After three days of pulsating action and more than two sessions of simmering tension, the India-A – South Africa-A second 'Test' at the BCCI Centre of Excellence near here delivered a blockbuster finish as the visitors chased down 417 near-improbable runs with five wickets to spare.

On a day of glorious uninterrupted sunshine, all South Africa-A batters thrived, chipping off the target bit by bit before racing home with three overs to spare. India-A skipper Rishabh Pant was off the field for nearly two sessions and by the time he returned, the result was seldom in question.

Terrific start

From an overnight 25 for no loss, openers Jordan Hermann (91, 123b, 13x4, 1x6) and Lesego Senokwane (77, 174b, 11x4) batted out the first session, adding 114 runs in 27 overs. The post-lunch period witnessed 80 runs from 24 overs before a whopping 198 came in the last session from 36.

When the steady Temba Bavuma was dismissed (59, 101b, 7x4), South Africa-A still needed 65 runs.

That was perhaps the only time the tourists may have harboured a few doubts, for Mohammed Siraj had just bounced out first-innings centurion Marques Ackerman (24, 26b, 4x4), having him caught by wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel.

But Connor Esterhuizen (52 n.o., 54b, 8x4, 1x6) and Tiaan van Vuuren (20 n.o., 23b, 1x6) came together for an unbroken 65-run association from just 52 balls to help their side clinch an emphatic win against an XI that had as many as eight Test players who will play South Africa next week.

Speedsters Siraj and Prasidh Krishna bowled economically, but weren't penetrative. Pacer Akash Deep, and spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Harsh Dubey, leaked runs by the truckload, conceding 298 collectively.

The pitch did ease for batting and the slow bowlers found little to no purchase, but there was seldom a period when India-A bowled tight lines to keep the batters quiet and induce mistakes.

Batting masterclass

While Hermann came up with a driving masterclass, Senokwane and Bavuma excelled in quiet accumulation. No. 3 Zubayr Hamza (77, 88b, 9x4, 3x6) was brisk without appearing to be so, the kind of deception which ultimately tripped India-A and helped draw the two-match series 1-1.

The scores: India-A 255 in 77.1 overs & 382/7 decl. in 89.2 overs lost to South Africa-A 221 in 47.3 overs & 417/5 in 98 overs (Jordan Hermann 91, Lesego Senokwane 77, Zubayr Hamza 77, Temba Bavuma 59, Connor Esterhuizen 52 n.o.).

PoM: Ackerman; **PoS:** Jurel.

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INBRIEF

Ryan Williams joins Indian football team camp

Forward Ryan Willaims, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, AIFF said on Sunday. Born in Perth, the 32-year-old entered the camp along with defender Jay Gupta. "Ryan Williams and Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national camp in Bengaluru," AIFF posted on *X*.

Jamieson seals a narrow win for the Kiwis over West Indies

Kyle Jamieson bowled a superb final over to seal a nine-run win for New Zealand over the West Indies in Nelson on Sunday in the third T20I. New Zealand leads the five-match series 2-1.

The scores: New Zealand 177/9 in 20 overs (Conway 56, Mitchell 41, Forde 2/20) bt West Indies 168 in 19.5 overs (Shepherd 49, Springer 39, Sodhi 3/34). **Toss:** New Zealand. **PoM**: Ish Sodhi.

Rathika loses a hard-fought final in NSW Open squash

India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan lost a fiercely-contested final 8-11, 3-11, 11-4, 12-10, 10-12 to Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen in the NSW Open squash tournament in Sydney on Sunday. Meanwhile, in Springfield (US), fifth seed Veer Chotrani beat American and third seed Timothy Brownell 11-8, 11-8, 11-4 in the semifinals of the St. James Expression Open.

LIVE TELECAST

NZ v WI: 4th T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5.45 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Karnataka has a slender advantage

Maharashtra pacer Choudhary triggers a collapse in the morning; Shreyas brings the visitor back into the contest with his all-round show

RANJI TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Maharashtra's left-arm pacer Mukesh Choudhary struck early, but Shreyas Gopal's all-round brilliance brought Karnataka back on day two of their Ranji Trophy Group B clash at the MCA's International Stadium here on Sunday.

At stumps, Maharashtra reached 200 for six in reply to Karnataka's 313, leaving the visitor with a slender advantage at the halfway stage.

Shreyas' composed knock (71, 162 balls, 9x4) guided Karnataka past the 300-run mark after a shaky start. Later, his crafty leg-spin fetched him four wickets and turned the game once again in Karnataka's favour.

Choudhary, though, was the early hero for Maharashtra. Swinging the ball both ways, he returned a devastating morning spell of 9-2-22-3. His fiery burst dismantled the lower order after Abhinav Manohar, dropped twice off his bowling, finally succumbed to a delivery that sent his off-stump cartwheeling.

Choudhary's three-wicket burst in four balls – spread over two overs – left Karnataka reeling, before Shreyas farmed the strike to add 35 crucial runs for the last two wickets. When birthday boy Prithvi Shaw (71, 92b, 9x4) and Arshin Kulkarni (34, 48b, 5x4) counterattacked in style, Maharashtra appeared set to take charge in front of a lively Sunday crowd. The opening pair added 98 brisk runs, scoring freely against Karnataka's pace trio.

Incisive: Choudhary swung the ball both ways and returned a devastating spell. EMMANUAL YOGINI

But Shreyas spun his web after lunch. He lured Kulkarni out of his crease, allowing K.L. Shrijith to complete a sharp stumping. Next over, Siddhesh Veer danced down the track and missed a wild swing, gifting Shreyas another.

Six overs later, captain Ankeet Bawane was undone by a wrong one that crashed into the stumps. When off-spinner Mohsin Khan dismissed Shaw soon after, Maharashtra had slipped to 114 for four.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: K.V. Aneesh lbw b Saxena 34, Mayank Agarwal st Nawale b Saxena 80, K.L. Shrijith b Saxena 10, Karun Nair b Ghosh 4, R. Smaran c Bawane b Ostwal 54, Abhinav Manohar b Choudhary 47, Shreyas Gopal c Dhas b Ostwal 71, Venkatesh M. c Nawale b Choudhary 0, Mohsin Khan lbw b Choudhary 0, Abhilash Shetty lbw b Saxena 0, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 0; Extras (lb-13): 13; Total (in 111 overs): 313.

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-82, 3-89, 4-188, 5-194, 6-276, 7-276, 8-280, 9-291.

Maharashtra bowling: Gurbani 14-2-38-0, Choudhary 17-3-66-3, Ostwal 26-8-53-2, Saxena 35-3-94-4, Ghosh 19-4-49-1.

Maharashtra — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw c Aneesh b Mohsin 71, Arshin Kulkarni st Shrijith b Shreyas 34, Siddhesh Veer st Shrijith b Shreyas 0, Ankeet Bawane b Shreyas 6, Sachin Dhas lbw b Mohsin 21, Saurabh Nawale a Aneesh b Shreyas 26, Jalaj Saxena (batting) 34, Vicky Ostwal (batting) 4; Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-1): 4; Total (for six wickets in 66 overs): 200.

Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-100, 3-112, 4-114, 5-139, 6-183.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 9-0-47-0, Abhilash 4-0-20-0, Shreyas 23-3-46-4, Venkatesh 6-1-28-0, Mohsin 24-3-56-2.

Shreyas enjoys setting up Bawane with a googly

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

For Shreyas Gopal, day two of Karnataka's Ranji Trophy clash against Maharashtra was a reminder of his enduring class.

Among his scalps, the dismissal of Maharashtra captain Ankeet Bawane was the most satisfying for the all-rounder. "He knows how I bowl, and I know how he bats," Shreyas explained. "He is a very good player of spin, so I had to disguise it as well as I could. I wanted him to either go for the paddle or the cover drive when I bowled the googly – and when he went for the sweep, it fell perfectly into my plan.

While his bowling continues to make an impression, Shreyas insists he values his batting equally. "Whenever I have the bat in my hand, I want to make a fifty or a hundred. I was looking good today, but we lost a few wickets, so I had to take some chances," he said.

"With the ball, I have been in good rhythm for the last three or four years – that's something I want to keep taking forward."

Despite consistent domestic performances for over a decade, an India cap has eluded the 32-year-old. Yet, there is no trace of bitterness. "You can't be frustrated," Shreyas said. "You have to be grateful – a lot of people would want the wickets, runs, and years I have had. What's in my control is turning up every day, being disciplined."

RANJI SCORES — ROUND 4 (DAY TWO)

Elite: Group A: At Kanpur: Uttar Pradesh 535/6 decl. in 138.4 overs (Madhav Kaushik 185 n.o., Aryan Juyal 140, Shivam Mavi 101 n.o., Rongsen Jonathan 4/150) vs Nagaland 77/4 in 26 overs (D. Nischal 42 batting).
At Visakhapatnam: Tamil Nadu 182 & 102/3 in 29 overs (B. Sachin 51) vs Andhra 177 in 49 overs (Shaik Rasheed 87 n.o., Sandeep Warrier 4/53).
At Nagpur: Vidarbha 286 in 118.4 overs (Dhruv Shorey 144, R. Samarth 49) vs Odisha 122/6 in 58.2 overs (Subhransu Senapati 41).
At Vadodara: Jharkhand 506 in 140 overs (Kumar Kushagra 234, Virat Singh 46, Robin Minz 79) vs Baroda 78/3 in 31 overs.
Group B: At Pune: Karnataka 313 in 111 overs (Mayank Agarwal 80, R. Smaran 54, Abhinav Manohar 47, Shreyas Gopal 71, Jalaj Saxena 4/94) vs Maharashtra 200/6 in 66 overs (Prithvi Shaw 71, Shreyas Gopal 4/46).
At Porvorim: Goa 284 in 95.5 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 65, Snehal Kauthankar 41, Lalit Yadav 41, Darshan Misal 44, Deepraj Gaonkar 51, Saransh Jain 4/78) vs Madhya Pradesh 181/7 in 73 overs (Rishabh Chouhan 43, Saransh Jain 48).
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 173 & 168/7 in 57.2 overs vs Punjab 142 in 57.2 overs (Nishunk Birla 4/18).
At Thiruvananthapuram: Saurashtra 160 & 47/1 in 17 overs vs Kerala 233 in 74.5 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 80, B. Aparajith 69, Jaydev Unadkat 4/42).
Group C: At Surat: Bengal 474 in 129.3 overs (Anustup Majumdar 135, Shahbaz Ahmed 86, Sumanta Gupta 120, Rahul Prasad 40 n.o., Kunal Yadav 4/98) vs Railways 97/5 in 38 overs (Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 4/17).
At Lahli: Haryana 112 & 105/6 in 44 overs vs Uttarakhand 288 in 94.3 overs (Kunal Chandela 40, J. Suchith 50, Yuvraj Choudhary 60).
At Nadiad: Services 248 in 115 overs (Siddharth Desai 5/74) vs Gujarat 171/4 in 57 overs (Abhishek Desai 44).
At Agartala: Tripura 602/7 decl. in 143 overs (G. Hanuma Vihari 156, Sentu Sarkar 94, Rana Datta 51, Vijay Shankar 150 n.o., M.B. Mura Singh 52) vs Assam 67/4 in 23 overs.
Group D: At Delhi: Delhi 211 & 7/0 in 2 overs vs Jammu & Kashmir 310 in 91.1 overs (Paras Dogra 106, Abdul Samad 85, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 47, Simarjeet Singh 6/52).
At Hyderabad: Hyderabad 364 in 104.1 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 55, Rahul Radesh 129, Rohit Rayudu 47) vs Rajasthan 221/5 in 72 overs (Sachin Yadav 43, Kunal Singh Rathore 64 batting, Ajay Kookna 42 batting).
At Raipur: Chhattisgarh 377 in 136 overs (Ayush Pandey 45, Sanjeet Desai 69, Amadeep Khare 44, Mayank Verma 121 n.o.) vs Pondicherry 108/2 in 37 overs (Paras Ratnaparkhe 47 batting).
At Mumbai: Mumbai 446 in 137.2 overs (Musheer Khan 112, Siddhesh Lad 127, Shams Mulani 69, Mayank Dagar 4/111) vs Himachal Pradesh 94/7 in 37 overs.
Plate: At Rangpo: Bihar 265 vs Sikkim 307/8 in 104 overs (Robin Limboo 91, Gurinder Singh 68, Suraj Kashyap 4/100).
At Anand: Manipur 400 in 133.1 overs (Karnajit Yumnam 40, Ulenyai Khwairakpam 90, Al Bashid Muhammed 126, Jotin Pheiroijam 55) vs Mizoram 56/4 in 24 overs.
At Surat: Meghalaya 628/6 decl. in 127 overs (Arpit Subhas 207, Ajay Duhan 53, Kishan Lyndoh 119, Rahul Dalal 144, Akash Kumar 50 n.o.) vs Arunachal Pradesh 73 in 27.4 overs (Aryan Bora 4/16) & 29/3 in 10 overs (f/o).

Kushagra (234, Jharkhand). FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Valiant Stream claims Bengaluru City Police Cup

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained Valiant Stream (Sandesh up), won the Bengaluru City Police Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (Nov 9). The winner is owned by Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt Ltd & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer S. Attaollahi won four races and Jockey Sandesh won three races on the day respectively.

THE RESULTS: 1. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400M): ROSALINE (Antony) 1, Adelanto (G. Praveen) 2, Divo (Jagadeesh) 3 and Divine Protector (A. Ramu) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 27.90s. ₹19 (w), 12, 15 and 13 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 36, FP: 144, Q: 107, Trinella: 341/103, Exacta: 835/425. Favourite: Rosaline.

Owners: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta, Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria, Mr. Rajat Banerji, Ms. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Haider Soomar, M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Mr. S.R. Sanas'. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2. WORLD CANCER AWARENESS DAY PLATE (1,200M): TRUE GOLD (Vishwa V) 1, Estefania (Aleemuddin) 2, N R I Gold (Pavan) 3 and Empress Bella (Darshan) 4. Nk, 4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 15.07s. ₹49 (w), 17, 15 and 45, SHP: 35, THP: 75, FP: 362, Q: 112, Trinella: 4,630/2,480, Exacta: 53,510/11,466. Favourite: Legendary Impact.

Owner: Mr. Mahmood Khan. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

3. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400M): XANTHE (Sandesh) 1, Eagle Eye (L.A. Rozario) 2, Glorious Strides (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Hyperdrive (Pavan) 4. 3/4, 1 and 5-1/4. 1m, 26.19s. ₹32 (w), 12, 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 29, FP: 58, Q: 19, Trinella: 137/95, Exacta: 218/102. Favourite: Eagle Eye.

Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

NOTE: *Originally Eagle Eye was first ahead of Xanthe but an objection by Sandesh, rider of Xanthe, against Eagle Eye's Rozario for shifting and pumping in the last 100m and 50m was upheld by the Stewards and the order was revised.*

4. UDUPI PLATE (1,400M): LUX AETERNA (Sandesh) 1, Aquastic (J. Chinoy) 2, Disciple (Antony) 3 and D Fronx (Sai Kiran) 4. 6-3/4, 2 and 3. 1m, 24.82s. ₹19 (w), 14, 23 and 15 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 41, FP: 169, Q: 86, Trinella: 302/105, Exacta: 1,480/831. Favourite: Lux Aeterna.

Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5. T.B. HANUMANTHARAJ MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): ZIVA (Suhas K) 1, Pole Star (Mukesh K) 2, See The Light (Sandesh) 3 and Thessalian (Vinod Shinde) 4. 1, Nose and 4-1/4. 1m, 12.20s. ₹142 (w), 26, 12 and 12 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 50, FP: 485, Q: 237, Trinella: 631/316, Exacta: 3,130/1,520. Favourite: Pole Star.

Owners: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda, Mr. Sharath M. Narayana & Mr. V. Lokanath. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

6. BENGALURU CITY POLICE CUP (1,400M): VALIANT STREAM (Sandesh) 1, Agrador (L.A. Rozario) 2, Jade Mountain (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Stella Maris (Mukesh K) 4. 4-1/4, 6 and Lnk. 1m, 24.87s. ₹49 (w), 17, 10 and 18 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 32, FP: 117, Q: 47, Trinella: 539/337, Exacta: 2,670/1,358. Favourite: Agrador.

Owners: Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt Ltd & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. GOMOS PLATE (1,400M): EFFICACY (Shreyas S) 1, Inspire (Antony) 2, Victoria Doresaani (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Booster Shot (Kiran Rai) 4. 3/4, 4-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 23.66s. ₹30 (w), 17, 13 and 13 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 48, FP: 78, Q: 38, Trinella: 142/55, Exacta: 1,453/679. Favourite: Inspire.

Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Maloji Baburao Bhosale & M/S. A.G. Bloodstock LLP. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

8. MALAPRABHA PLATE (1,200M): MISTER BROWN (Arvind K) 1, Dictator (Sandesh) 2, Glorious Spectre (J. Chinoy) 3 and Roadrunner (Hindu S) 4. Not run: N R I Jetpower. 5-1/4, 1-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 12.74s. ₹25 (w), 13, 13 and 20 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 40, FP: 66, Q: 35, Trinella: 160/77, Exacta: 489/223. Favourite: Mister Brown.

Owner: Mr. Santhosh G. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹16,299 (40 tkts.); Runner up: 1,693 (165 tkts.); Treble (i): 2,355 (five tkts.); (ii): 403 (48 tkts.).

SNAPSHOTS

Madesh wins Senior Max title; Arshi scripts history

Teenager Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) expectedly won the title in the Senior Max category while nine-year-old Arshi Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) scripted history by becoming the first woman to win a National title by annexing the crown in the Micro Max class as the MECO-FMSCI National karting championship 2025 (Rotax Max Classes) concluded in Bengaluru.

The results: National Championship: Final Standings: Senior Max: Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing); **Team:** Peregrine Racing.
Junior Max: Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT); **Team:** MSPORT.
Mini Max: Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT); **Team:** MSPORT.
Micro Max: Arshi Gupta (Leapfrog Racing); **Team:** Leapfrog Racing.
Sixth round (winners only, provisional): Senior Max (18 laps): Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) 16m, 46.003s.

The champions: Madesh (senior), Arshi (Micro), Preetham (mini) and Vengatesan (junior). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Junior Max (16 laps): Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) 14:55.669.
Mini Max (14 laps): Hamza Balasinorwala (Crest Motorsports) 13:38.462.
Micro Max (12 laps): Arshi Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) 12:11.701.

Anish claims rapid fire pistol silver

Anish Bhanwala added a silver to India's tally, finishing second in the 25m rapid fire pistol with a total of 28/40 for his maiden individual competition medal at the 2025 ISSF World shooting Championships in Cairo on Sunday.
The 23-year old Anish had to fight off four shoot-offs – twice each against Germany's Emauel Mueller for 3-4 position and Maksym Horodynets of Ukraine for the silver – to finish behind Frenchman Clement Bessaguet (31/40).

Bengaluru takes the top spot

Bengaluru took the top spot with 404 medals – 135 gold, 128 silver and 141 bronze – as the fourth Mini Karnataka Games drew to a close in Bengaluru on Sunday. Belagavi finished second with 100 medals (28, 34 and 38) while Mysuru came third with 57 medals (18, 12 and 27). Prakul R. Kundar from Udupi (783 points) and Poorvi T. Harikantra from Uttara Kannada (822) were adjudged the best athletes in the boys' and girls' categories respectively.

Aneeshwar's ton in vain

Aneeshwar Gautam's 118 went in vain as Uttar Pradesh notched up a seven-wicket win over Karnataka in the men's under-23 State A-Trophy match in Jaipur on Sunday.

The scores: Karnataka 306/9 in 50 overs (Prakar Chaturvedi 54, Aneeshwar Gautam 118, K.P. Karthikeya 43) lost to Uttar Pradesh 307/3 in 46.4 overs (Adarsh Singh 91, Kavya Teotia 53, Rituraj Sharma 75 n.o., Sameer Rizvi 61).

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